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## Clinton: Talks with Netanyahu will focus on Syrian track

By DAVID RUDGE, LIAT COLLINS, ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and HILLEL KUTTNER

President Clinton said yesterday that bringing Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table will be a "major focus" of his February 13 meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but that resuming talks is dependent on "the willingness of the parties."

"What our experience has been ... that when both parties want to make peace, no matter how far apart they seem, we find a way to get there. If they're not sure it's time to make peace, no matter how close it seems to an outsider, we don't seem to be able to bridge the gaps," Clinton told reporters in the first press conference since his

inauguration.

"There will never be a comprehensive peace in the Middle East" until an Israeli-Syrian deal is achieved, he said.

Netanyahu expressed optimism yesterday over the prospect of finding a "bridging formula" to enable resumption of the peace talks with Syria and to conclude them.

"I will be giving President Clinton a number of ideas on how to resume the negotiations with Syria but I have to make it clear that we can't force Syria to come to the peace table," Netanyahu told reporters during a visit to the Haifa area yesterday.

"If Damascus does not want to negotiate peace we are in no position to force it, although we hope

they will. I heard that President Assad said a few weeks ago that

the previous administration, but was not obligated to anything that had not been written.

"What was said or not said in hypothetical negotiations between the sides does not obligate governments, otherwise it would be impossible to hold negotiations," said Netanyahu.

He was responding to a question regarding the prospect of resuming peace talks with Syria without some prior commitment by Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights.

"In the case of Syria, there is one framework (for negotiations) - Madrid - although I don't rule out the possibility of other formulas

**Beilin: Withdraw from Lebanon now, Page 2**

peace is even more important for Syria than for Israel. We will put that to the test very shortly because I believe that it is relatively easy, with goodwill, to find a bridging formula between the two sides and enable each of them to come with their positions to the negotiating table."

Netanyahu reiterated that the government is committed to upholding agreements signed by

Continued on Page 4

## Bar-On investigated, files complaint against ITV

By RANNE MARCUS and EVELYN GORDON

Lawyer Roni Bar-On, at the center of the "Bar-On-for-Hebron" scandal allegedly involving MK Aryeh Deri and other government members, was summoned for questioning at the National Fraud Squad headquarters in Jaffa yesterday.

Bar-On said he plans to file a criminal complaint against Channel 1, its director-general Mordechai Kirschenbaum, head of news desk Rafik Halaby and reporter Ayala Hasson. He intends to sue the three for slander, he said.



Roni Bar-On (Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

He was the first to be summoned following evidence given to police by Hasson on Monday, who still refuses to disclose her sources. Bar-On, who merely said "Good morning" to reporters on entering the police station, arrived shortly

arrived to give evidence regarding the case, while lawyer David Shimron, also one of Netanyahu's advisers, arrived to do the same shortly afterwards. None of the three was questioned under caution. Shimron and Molcho are considered very close to Netanyahu.

According to Hasson's story, Shimron, Molcho and Deri's lawyer Dan Avi-Yitzhak met separately with Netanyahu in January, to voice their objections over Bar-On's appointment, reportedly saying that the appointment would "bounce back as a boomerang."

Molcho and Shimron were reportedly asked if they were aware of any such alleged deal between Netanyahu, Bar-On and Deri. Bar-On resigned as attorney-general just 48 hours after his appointment.

After four hours of questioning, Bar-On told reporters that he

cooperated fully with investigators and answered all questions.

**Shamgar agrees to head A-G status team, Page 3**

In the complaint he filed with police, he emphatically denied meeting with Deri to arrange the alleged deal whereby he would be appointed attorney-general and in return would ensure that Deri be granted a plea bargain in his ongoing trial. Since Bar-On's official complaint accuses Hasson, Halaby and Kirschenbaum of willfully slandering him, police are now legally entitled to launch a separate criminal investigation, questioning ITV personnel as suspects.

Continued on Page 4

**Swiss students launch collection for Holocaust survivors**

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR

A group of high-school students in the Swiss capital of Bern has launched an immediate fund-raising drive for Holocaust victims, saying that time is running out as their government decides on reparations to the victims.

"With intense shock and agitation, we've learned that even today, 50 years after the end of World War II, there are still victims of the Holocaust that live in distress and have never received any form of reparations for the suffering they endured," the students said in a statement released to the Swiss press over the weekend.

"We maintain that we must no longer delay this and that now is the time to express our solidarity with these people," the statement added. "It seems patently unfair that the victims should be forced to wait until the members of [the Swiss government commission discussing the issue] complete their investigation."

The pupils have decided to devote any funds they are able to raise to Amcha, the Israeli organization for psycho-social

**Netanyahu may visit King Hassan**

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

There are efforts underway to arrange a visit by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Morocco next month on the way back from a trip to the US, but it remains unclear whether this will be successful, diplomatic sources say.

Netanyahu is tentatively scheduled to meet US President Bill Clinton on Thursday, February 13. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is due to visit Washington on Friday, February 21. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein are also scheduled to

meet Clinton next month, but the exact dates are not yet known.

Morocco's King Hassan has boycotted Netanyahu until now, refusing to even speak to him on the phone. However, after the Hebron pullback agreement was reached, he sent an open message of congratulations to the premier via the Moroccan Press Agency.

The US has pledged to improve Israel's Arab regional ties in the aftermath of the Hebron accord, triggering speculation that its ambassador in Rabat, Marc

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## NEWS

in brief

### Netanyahu: We're still working to free POWs

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu yesterday reiterated Israel's obligation to seek the safe return of missing IAF navigator Ron Arad.

Netanyahu was asked by reporters during a visit to Haifa about recent reports regarding international efforts to ascertain the fate of Arad and secure his return. "We are committed to returning him to Israel, as well as our other missing soldiers and prisoners," said Netanyahu.

"We are following the various reports that come in. We relate to Ron Arad as somebody who is alive and who should be returned safe and well, as obliged under international conventions." David Rudge

### Tiberias woman bitten by fox

A Tiberias woman on her way to work was bitten by a small fox yesterday in a parking lot downtown. The 40-year-old woman said the fox jumped on her and bit her. A passerby armed with a pistol shot the fox and wounded it, while others - fearing it was about to attack again - beat it with sticks. The municipal veterinarian who arrived at the scene said the young wolf was dying anyway when it attacked. The fox's body was sent to the veterinary lab in Afula to check whether it was rabid. The woman's wounds were treated and she was given a rabies shot as a precaution. Tim

### None hurt as bomb explodes near SLA troops

A large roadside bomb was detonated alongside South Lebanese Army troops while they were on operational duties in the security zone's western sector near Barasheet yesterday. There were no casualties and Hizbullah has claimed responsibility. IDF gunners responded by firing at suspected terrorist targets north of the zone.

In a separate incident, late on Monday night, an SLA outpost in the zone's eastern sector came under light weapons fire. There were no casualties and IDF gunners returned fire.

A similar incident occurred Sunday night, when gunmen fired anti-tank rounds and machine guns at another SLA post in the zone's eastern sector, without causing any injuries or damage. The Amal Shi'ite movement claimed responsibility for the attack - the first by Amal in that area for many years. David Rudge

### Army to hand over bodies of two terrorists

The IDF will today hand over to the Palestinians the bodies of two terrorists killed by Israeli troops, including one of the kidnapers of Nachshon Waxman. The handover is reportedly part of a deal made in exchange for information which led to the discovery of missing soldier Ilan Sa'adon.

Hassan Abbas and Salah Jadallah, both natives of the Gaza Strip, are to be handed over to their families at the Erez Crossing. Abbas was killed by a Border Policeman and armed civilians during a shooting spree in Jerusalem's Nahlat Shiva promenade in October 1994. Jadallah was killed by Israeli commandos during a botched attempt to rescue kidnapped IDF soldier Nachshon Waxman in the same month.

The bodies will be taken from their graves at the cemetery for enemy soldiers near the B'not Ya'akov Bridge in the north, the army said. Arie O'Sullivan

# Beilin: Remove IDF from Lebanon

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Labor Party leader candidate Yossi Beilin said yesterday that Israel had to immediately and unilaterally get out of south Lebanon. But the head of IDF intelligence rejected the idea, saying conditions were not yet ripe for such a move and doing so would expose residents in the north to suffering.

"We have turned into hostages in Lebanon," Beilin said. "Our soldiers have turned into sitting targets for Hizbullah. We need to get out of Lebanon unilaterally with the aid of a third party."

Speaking at a seminar at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Beilin said that a written agreement with Beirut would never be allowed by Syria, the de-facto ruler in Lebanon, because Damascus wanted to use guerrilla attacks against Israel and the IDF as a pressure tactic. He also questioned Syria's seri-

ousness about peace with Israel, adding Syrian President Hafez Assad feared normalization, an Israeli requirement for returning the Golan Heights.

OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, on the other hand, spelt out the IDF intelligence assessment that Assad had not given up his aim of getting back the Golan. For the moment, Ya'alon said, Assad prefers peaceful negotiations, but did not rule out military action if talks became deadlocked.

"The return of the entire Golan Heights is [Syria's] primary strategic aim. It sees the peace process as the preferable way for reaching this aim, particularly since it has achieved, it claims, an Israeli obligation to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights under certain conditions," Ya'alon said in a rare public address.

Ya'alon was in effect echoing the assessment of his predecessor Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy. "Damascus is aware that it will have to

pay for the territory with security arrangements and normalization, but it is not prepared to make compromises which appear to its leadership as a blow to its honor and its security," Ya'alon said.

Beilin, meanwhile, said Damascus was blocking any Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon because it used Israeli occupation there as a legitimization for their troops presence in Lebanon. "We need the guts to get out of there," Beilin said.

But Ya'alon said a unilateral withdrawal was a mistake. To do so, Israel required at least an obligation of responsibility for the area by Lebanon and Syria and for south Lebanon to be handed over in an orderly fashion to the Lebanese Army.

"I can promise that if there is a unilateral withdrawal without an agreement, life in the north won't be without suffering from Hizbullah and Palestinian terror," Ya'alon said. "The question from a military point of

view is where do we prefer to confront them when civilians are the target? I propose not to withdraw," he said. "The Syrians are the key. They are using Lebanon as a trump card."

But Beilin said the international border could be like a "zipper," which could be opened for IDF action and then closed in times of tranquility.

"I was involved in the negotiations 12 years ago on setting up the so-called 'self-declared' security zone. I don't think there was any person at the table with me who thought we'd still be there 12 years later," Beilin said.

Beilin also said Israel had to stop pointing to Iran as Israel's arch enemy and actually seek to renew relations with Teheran. He said Iranian need for investments in its retarded gas industries could be used as a pressure tactic led by the United States to get Iran to abandon its efforts to reach nuclear capability.



Hussein and Arafat meet in Jordan

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat embraces Jordan's King Hussein on his arrival at the Royal Palace in Amman yesterday. Arafat was on a courtesy visit to see King Hussein who underwent minor knee surgery three days ago. (Reuters)

## Beilin terms Palestinian state 'essential'

By JON IMMANUEL

Anyone who thinks it is possible to solve the refugee problem without granting Palestinian statehood is wrong, Yossi Beilin, the Labor Party's leading theoretician of the Oslo accords, said yesterday.

Speaking at the Jaffee Center forum, Beilin said that statehood for the Palestinians was essential to resolving the refugee problem because a state gives the refugees a feasible alternative destination to Israel since they would be Palestinian citizens.

"Whoever thinks you can prevent both the right of return to Israel and the right of establishing a state is wrong."

"The state will not be up to the 1967 borders. This is understood by the Palestinians and us," he said in an oblique reference to an understanding with Mahmoud Abbas, the chief Palestinian architect of the Oslo accords. The Palestinians have always downplayed the degree of Abbas's agreement with Beilin.

However, Beilin took issue with Meretz leader Yossi Sarid who said on Monday on ITV Channel One's *Popolitika* that Beilin's "modified" document produced in conjunction with Likud MK Michael Eitan would not be accepted by him or by the Palestinians. "My good friend Yossi Sarid said nothing about the agreements we reached with Abu Mazen [Abbas]... The Palestinians understand that for a state they have to pay a price."

The issue was no longer territorial compromise but how much territorial compromise. Here, Beilin considered the one-year delay in the third IDF redeployment from September 1997 to August 1998, to be a setback. He described the delay - something the government considers its most significant negotiating achievement - to be dangerous. The extended period of negotiation "exposes us longer to violence by those who think they can thwart the process so long as no agreement has been reached." He warned that further talks like the Oslo talks must be conducted "away from the spotlight."

Meanwhile, chief Hebron negotiator Saeb Erekat sent a message to his counterpart Yitzhak Molcho protesting Israel's removal of the Jabalin beduin from land they have occupied since 1950 which has now been absorbed by the largest settlement, Ma'aleh Admunim.

Talks are to resume tomorrow in Ramallah on civil affairs issues still remaining from the interim accords. Last night, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright phoned PA leader Yasser Arafat, and expressed her commitment to the peace process, Israel Radio reported.

### SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Mr. Jeff Barsky, editor of The Jerusalem Post, will address the club.

## Hamas leader Abu Marzook decides to stop fighting extradition to Israel

WASHINGTON (AP) - Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook, jailed in the US, is to give up his effort to resist extradition to Israel, the State Department said yesterday.

"We understand that Mr. Abu Marzook intends to withdraw his legal challenge to the order finding him extraditable," spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"Any such legal decision is of course within Mr. Abu Marzook's rights. It's entirely his own choice," Burns said.

Abu Marzook made that decision because he does not feel that he will get a fair trial in the US, said a friend of his who has been involved

with his legal defense.

Abu Marzook is wanted in Israel on murder and conspiracy charges for financing and planning terror attacks.

Abu Marzook has lived in Virginia for 15 years, but is not a US citizen. He was detained in the summer of 1995, when reentering the US.

Immigration inspectors realized his name had been added to a list of suspected terrorists.

Abu Marzook's friend said the



Abu Marzook

Hamas leader was not afraid of going on trial in Israel, where many Hamas activists are serving prison terms. An Abu Marzook trial in Israel could cause new complications in the peace talks. Hamas has threatened to carry out new suicide attacks if Abu Marzook stands trial in Israel.

In Gaza, a top Palestinian Authority official said yesterday that Abu Marzook "has not given up his fight against extradition to

Israel."

PA Attorney-General Khalid al-Qidrah said Abu Marzook was willing to leave the US "on condition that he comes to the Palestinian territories." Al-Qidrah said the PA would do everything it could to bring Abu Marzook to the PA, but had not decided whether he would be put on trial in a Palestinian court.

However, US Consul Edward Abington said sending Abu Marzook to the PA areas instead of to Israel appeared out of the question.

"Israel will never agree to something like that," Abington said.

## Islamists claim excavations undermining Al-Aksa Mosque

By JON IMMANUEL

Islamists held a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday to condemn tunnel works by the Antiquities Authority they said were undermining the foundations of Al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount.

Najah Dkeirat, head of the Islamic Heritage Association, warned that "the diggings could cause an explosion in the Moslem world."

The opening of the Western Wall Tunnel triggered an outbreak of Palestinian violence four months ago which rocked the peace process and Moslems are concerned by any Israeli digging under or near the Mount.

Sheikh Raed Salah, the mayor of Umm el-Fahm and head of the Israeli Islamic movement, displayed photographs showing recent plastering which he said showed that Israel was engaged in work directly under Al-Aksa which was causing cracks. The tunnels, which are not new, have been closed with cement and stones, but Salah said that they can be easily moved and anyone can enter.

Antiquities Authority director Amir Drori, supported by Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, denied Monday that Israelis were tunneling under the Temple Mount. He called the charges "lies without any foundation."

No member of the Wakf, which has authority for the Temple Mount and Al-Aksa, was present at the Jerusalem press conference, although the Wakf spread the alarm after the Western Wall Tunnel was opened.

Mohammed Nusseibeh, the Wakf spokesman, told *The Jerusalem Post* that "the whole situation is unclear. But when the first tunnel was opened people became very suspicious of any kind of Israeli excavation under or near Al-Aksa. There is nothing to stop stop anybody passing through the tunnel opened two months ago," where he said, Moslems have expressed fears that extremists might plant explosives. He said he had personally not

seen any damage he could attribute to recent Israeli excavations, but the works on the tunnel opened four months ago has definitely affected building above it.

Palestinian Authority Religious Affairs Minister Hassan Tahboub also seemed to distance himself from the claims of the Israeli Islamists, saying that, "We object to diggings because they could lead to violence."

Salah, Dkeirat and Hassan Khatib, editor of the Islamic newspaper, *Sawt al-Haq*, said that the cemetery on the Haram also had been damaged. They demanded that all work be stopped, that there be an investigation to see where the tunnels lead, that an Islamic defense committee protect the mosque, and that the mosque be repaired.

MKs Abdul Malik Dahamshe and Taleb a-Sanaa of the United Arab List toured the Mount yesterday. They did not comment on the alleged damage, but a-Sanaa said afterwards that the fact that the work is taking place during Ramadan following other Israeli violations in Jerusalem arouses suspicions.

## US: Nazi plunder must be checked before returned

Eisenstat: Report due next month

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - The US opposes the distribution of \$68 million plundered by the Nazis from the central banks of Europe until it can determine if any of it belonged to Jews, US undersecretary of commerce Stuart Eizenstat said Monday night.

World Jewish Congress officials wrote to President Clinton two months ago requesting that those funds be given to Holocaust victims and the US is "looking at" trying to bring that about, Eizenstat said at the Jewish Community Center here.

"We've told Britain and France we'd object to the return of that money to the original countries until we've determined if any of that money is non-monetary gold," said Eizenstat, who heads the American efforts to account for the funds and property seized from Jews during World War II. "The US, Great Britain and France form what is known as the 'tripartite commission' responsible for determining the fate of the \$68 million in 'monetary gold' stolen by the Nazis and deposited in Switzerland during the war."

About \$150 million have

already been returned since the end of the war to the central banks that were looted.

Eizenstat said the 11-nation commission he chairs on the US role in tracking Nazi assets will release its report late next month. But efforts to release the minutes of the tripartite commission's deliberations have been unsuccessful, he said.

Eizenstat spoke just hours after Swiss ambassador Carlo Jagmetti resigned after urging Bern to prepare for "war" against Jewish organizations seeking to establish the truth about Swiss bank accounts held by Holocaust victims.

"This shows the level of intensity, emotion that this issue has generated," Eizenstat said of the resignation. "This is not a free lunch. Everyone realizes we've gone too far down the road to turn back."

Eizenstat is due to leave today for Switzerland to further US efforts on the dormant accounts. He said he believes that his upcoming move to the State Department - where he is to become the assistant secretary for economic, business and agricultural affairs - will help advance the cause.

The Sons of Zion Organization, the management and workers in Israel and the US

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**AZARIA RAPAPORT** 57

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## NEWS

in brief

### Former minister Ne'eman's trial begins today

The trial of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman begins at Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court today. The indictment against Ne'eman is signed by State Attorney Edna Arbel. The police investigation of him was launched at the order of then attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair.

The indictment revolves around an affidavit Ne'eman gave the Supreme Court in response to an appeal against his appointment as justice minister, regarding charges he tried to convince witness Martin Brown not to cooperate with the police investigation of MK Aryeh Deri, and later tried to get him to recant his version of events. The indictment claims that Ne'eman gave the court false information regarding when his ties with Deri began, and tried to hide his relationship with Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak.

### Air pollution in Tel Aviv drops

Air pollution in Tel Aviv has dropped 200 percent since 1993, the municipality announced yesterday. However, the municipality added that pollution in the city and the Dan Region is still high, and additional steps must be taken to correct this.

The municipality cited the increased use of catalytic converters and low-sulphur fuel as reasons for the drop.

### "The Song of Peace" ruled not political

"The Song of Peace" is not a political song, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday, and convinced petitioners to withdraw their petition to the court that the song not be played on Army Radio or at events sponsored by the defense establishment. The petitioners said the song carries a political message and lowers soldiers' motivation by making light of war.

"I see here an approach to war and peace. This is not political," Justice Mishael Cheshin said.

### Actor Shraga Harpaz released on bail

Actor Shraga Harpaz, who is suspected of fraud, forgery and theft, was released on NIS 20,000 bail yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. Harpaz and accountant Yitzhak Tavoshi were arrested last week on suspicion of embezzling over a million shekels from Hashmira, the company where they both worked. Harpaz told the court that as soon as he realized he had broken the law he had turned to his attorney for help.

## Histadrut petitions High Court for Haifa Chemicals

By EVELYN GORDON

The Histadrut petitioned the High Court of Justice yesterday against a National Labor Court ruling upholding Haifa Chemicals' decision to cancel its collective work agreement.

The company's management announced that it was unilaterally canceling the agreement in September, touching off a lengthy work dispute which has resulted in the plant being shut down for the past six weeks.

The Histadrut then sued the company in the Haifa Labor Court, which ruled on January 20 that the decision to cancel the collective agreement was invalid. The court said that management had not acted in good faith, and that some of management's statements about the company's worsening financial situation - which were the ostensible reason for its cancellation of the agreement - were false.

The following day, Haifa Chemicals appealed this decision to the National Labor Court, and the latter scheduled a hearing for January 22 at 5 p.m. At 10:35 p.m. on January 22, the national court issued its decision overturning the regional court's ruling.

The Histadrut then petitioned the High Court.

In its petition, the Histadrut argued that the national court's ruling constituted a serious miscarriage of justice, because the Histadrut was given no time to prepare its case. Its request that the hearing be postponed was denied solely because several of the judges were in a hurry to leave the country for a professional conference in England, the petition charged.

Since the plant is shut down at the moment anyway, the petition added, the existence or lack thereof of a collective agreement would not have any immediate financial implications. Therefore, there was no reason not to grant the postponement, it said.

Furthermore, the petition said, the national court's ruling in its ruling which contradicted those of the regional court, despite the fact that it examined only part of the evidence which was before the lower court.

This perversion of justice casts serious doubt on the Histadrut's ability to consider the labor courts an alternative to strikes and other industrial action, the petition added.

## Knesset marks World Animal Welfare Day

By LIAT COLLINS

The plight of the humble hen was discussed in the Knesset plenum yesterday when the House marked World Animal Welfare Day which falls this Friday, MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui-Meretz), who initiated the Anti-Cruelty to Animals Law, chose to relate less to domestic pets and concentrate on the need to treat farm animals humanely.

"Although it is the fate of most of them to end up on a plate, that is no reason to abuse them first," he said.

Poraz mentioned specifically the cramped conditions in many of the egg-laying hens in the cowsheds, the veal industry, the forced feeding of geese for foie gras liver, the destruction of egg-laying hens after they cease to be productive, and the killing of male chicks almost as they hatch.

"Unfortunately, in many places the male chicks are simply thrown into a sack one on top of the other and left to die by suffocation," he noted. He also mentioned the transport of animals to slaughter. Many hens suffer broken wings and legs when transported in poorly handled, cramped crates.

Poraz also noted the thou-

sands of sheep that were transported by sea from Australia before Ramadan, many of which died on the journey. Yael Dayan (Labor) mentioned the cases of animal fights - particularly dogs and cocks - which are carried out despite the law. She called on Agriculture and Environment Minister Raphael Eitan to ensure the laws protecting animals are enforced. She made special mention of the mass poisoning by local municipalities.

Avraham Herschson (Likud), chairman of the Knesset's Environmental Caucus, said a society must protect its animals in return for the protection they afford people and noted that the large-scale destruction of cats in the Middle Ages preceded the Great Plague because it enabled the numbers of rats to increase uncontrolled.

The Environment Ministry and Israel Veterinarians Association is sponsoring a month-long campaign of neutering dogs and cats at half-price. The campaign is aimed at preventing the births of unwanted litters which end up on the streets.

Members of the country's animal welfare groups attended the plenum session and subsequently met with MKs.

# MK Bronfman alleges 'heartless discrimination' by Interior Ministry

By LIAT COLLINS

A woman at the end of the process of converting to Judaism is facing deportation at the request of the Interior Ministry despite the fact she has recommendations from Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron and her adoptive family here.

Ludmilla Semolina from the former Soviet Union is currently studying at the Machanayim ulpan and conversion program and she now only has to appear before the

rabbinic courts to complete her conversion.

"It's completely clear that her intentions are entirely pure and there is no reason not to let her complete her studies and appear before the rabbinic court on conversions. The heartlessness of the Interior Ministry has reached new heights," said Yisrael B'Aliya faction chairman Roman Bronfman.

Bakshi-Doron's letter says: "I have heard from reliable people that the aforementioned lady [Semolina] is true in her intent to

join the Jewish People and I ask that all possible aid be afforded her."

Batya Carmon, in charge of the ministry's visa department, sent a letter to Bronfman stating: "A person who arrives in Israel as a tourist from those countries whose citizens tend to migrate to Israel is not permitted to stay here for the purpose of conversion. We ask that they leave the country and file from there [their country of origin] the relevant requests which will be thoroughly examined, and those

whose requests are authorized will be able to enter the country and undergo the process."

Bronfman, who raised the issue in a parliamentary question to be answered by Interior Minister Eli Suissa, said there is no reason to deport Semolina since she has almost completed the process and is clearly a genuine case. He also complained about the discriminatory tone of the letter mentioning "those countries whose citizens tend to migrate."

Interior Ministry Spokeswoman

Tova Ellison said in response: "There is no choice but to deport someone who is here illegally. It might be that this case is genuine but the law is very clear on the fact that someone who is in Israel illegally must be deported. Lately we have witnessed an incredible rise in the numbers of people asking to convert purely to immigrate and gain the material benefits of immigrants and to work here. We have to be strict about applying the law to avoid it being exploited."



The artist and his work

Remma Weizman, the wife of the president (left) and Tamar Kollek, the wife of former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek visit a special exhibit at the Jerusalem Municipal Gallery of paintings by Efraim Rimon (right) and other residents of the Ilan hostel for severely disabled young adults.

## Shamgar to head public commission on status of attorney-general

By EVELYN GORDON

Former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar has agreed to head a public commission on the status of the attorney-general, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi announced yesterday.

Hanegbi decided to set up the commission in light of the uproar surrounding the government's original choice of Roni Bar-On as attorney-general even before Bar-On resigned. The public argument over the appointment was largely possible because there are virtually no legal guide-



Former Supreme Court president, Meir Shamgar (Joel Fishman)

lines regarding this position, Hanegbi said.

Over the next few days Hanegbi will be approaching other jurists, politicians, and public figures to ask them to sit on the commission as well.

The commission will examine questions such as how the attorney-general should be appointed, what criteria a candidate for this position should meet, how long he should serve, under what conditions the government can terminate his tenure early, and what the attorney-general's responsibilities should be. Currently, the law only states

that the attorney-general is appointed by the cabinet and serves at the cabinet's pleasure, and that he must be someone who is qualified to be a Supreme Court justice.

One question which has often been raised about the attorney-generalship is whether it is appropriate to have one person filling two essentially contradictory roles: That of the government's legal advisor who is presumed to be acting on the government's behalf, and that of head of the prosecution who must be completely independent.

The ministry's spokeswoman said it would respect the law and that every person's request to keep a former surname would be honored. Meanwhile, however, it has not been possible to stop changing women's surnames automatically upon marriage, she said, "because we're switching to a new computerization system for the population registry." She could not say when the switchover will be completed.

Nor could she say when Eventov will get her good name back.

## Senior 'Ma'ariv' official questioned under caution

By RAINE MARCUS

David Ronen, Ma'ariv's security officer and deputy director of the Hachsharot Hayishuv insurance company, was questioned under caution by the National Crimes Squad for several hours yesterday in connection with conspiring to break into buildings to plant hidden cameras and tape recorders to dig up information to use against Yehudi Aharonov.

Ronen is currently on trial in Tel Aviv's Magistrate's Court, together with Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrodi, on charges of commissioning wiretaps on senior Yehudi personnel and others, and paying hush money to private investigators Rafi Friedman and Ya'acov Tsar (who turned State's Witness in the

affair).

Police say that according to their evidence, Ronen conspired to unlawfully break into the home of a senior Yehudi reporter to plant hidden cameras there in an attempt to uncover the journalist's intimate activities, allegedly for blackmail purposes. According to sources and evidence, Ronen's alleged plans did not come to fruition.

Police have had this particular evidence for some time, but in view of new information which reached them recently, detectives who investigated the media wiretapping case are now probing whether Ronen conspired to break into other premises to install hidden cameras and microphones.

The trial continues today.

## Israel Electric תורת החשמל

The Israel Electric Corporation wishes to purchase the following goods/services:

TENDER	DESCRIPTION	Cost of tender documents, inc. VAT (non-returnable)
583356 CE-701	Emergency Diesel Generator (EDG) System Request for Technical Proposal - First Stage Participation pre-conditions: 1. The contractor shall have experience in Israel in the delivery, installation and putting into operation of emergency diesel generator systems, of similar complexity, including diesel engines of approximately similar power. 2. The contractor shall have workshops in Israel suitable for the execution of repair and maintenance works, both mechanical and electrical.	NIS 936

Last date for submitting proposals: March 9, 1997, at 11 a.m.

Conditions applying to all tenders (in addition to the pre-conditions applying to particular tenders):

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The tender documents may be obtained, Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, showing payment (non-returnable) of the cost of the documents, into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address, Tel. 04-861-5455/4.

Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be reviewed on Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Dept. at the above address, and at the Sales Unit, 90 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod building, Entrance Gimmel, Floor 1, Tel. 03-585-4679, 03-585-4681.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tenders Box No. 1 in the Pal-Yam building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tender Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

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### Childhood memories

Education and Culture Minister Zevulun Hammer on a tour of an exhibit on the history of Zionism at the Zionist Archives in Jerusalem, yesterday. The exhibit contains more than 20 million documents, pictures, and posters, including some from the school that Hammer attended. (Roni Ne'eman)

## Carmel tunnel project enters new phase

By DAVID RUDGE

The proposed \$150 million Haifa tunnel project - aimed at cutting a route through the heart of Mt. Carmel and linking southern and northern access routes while bypassing downtown - entered a new phase yesterday.

The five companies competing to win the bid to construct and operate the proposed toll road were yesterday officially invited to submit their tenders for the project.

The ceremony was held at Haifa's new International Exhibition and Convention Center in the presence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna and leading public figures.

Netanyahu apparently enjoyed

the break from the rigors of office, especially recently, but could not refrain from commenting wryly that he had become "accustomed to opening tunnels."

He also expressed his intention to return as prime minister for the official opening of the tunnel, which is scheduled to be completed by 2002.

Mitzna said the tunnel project was unique in terms of the concept of financing the construction through private investment, as well as the engineering details.

The company which wins the tender will cover all the construction costs and recoup its investment by charging drivers fees for using the four-lane road. After a period of 25-30 years, when costs have been covered and profits

made, the road will be handed back to the state under what is known as a "Build, Operate and Transfer" program.

Mitzna said four separate tunnels would be bored through the heart of Mt. Carmel, with electronically-controlled entry and exit points at the southern access to the city, near the exhibition center off Rehov Freud, at Neveh Sha'an and the Checkpoint junction in the north.

Before work could even start, however, the Antiquities Authority, carried out a rescue excavation near the proposed southern entrance to the tunnel, which uncovered a large ancient settlement known as Castra.

Authority chairman Amir Drori, who also attended the ceremony yesterday, said the excavations of

the Byzantine period settlement had been completed.

The site itself will be destroyed by the tunnel construction work, although Drori said they hoped that parts could be saved and restored.

Netanyahu said the tunnel project was part of the government's plans for creating better road infrastructure that would provide faster links between development towns and communities in the periphery with city centers.

After holding a press conference in Haifa, the prime minister traveled to nearby Kiryat Motzkin where he was awarded honorary citizenship of the seaside suburb town and inaugurated a school named after his brother Yoni, killed at Entebbe.

## MKs, educators discuss religious-secular rift

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset Education Committee yesterday held a three-hour meeting on religious-secular relations during which 33 speakers including MKs, school principals, and educators addressed the issue. However, not one representative of the haredi sector was invited to present that community's view.

The meeting was initiated by MK Shmariya Ben-Tzur (National Religious Party) who described it as "the first shot in the process of bridging between religious and secular." He said the religious-secular divide is the country's main problem and said the source of the problem stems from the two sides not knowing

each other. He called for meetings between teachers and students in state and state-religious schools.

His call was repeated by committee chairman Emanuel Zissman. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said meetings between those interested in getting to know the other could take place in different frameworks including during teacher training programs. He promised to develop different types of meetings, mutual hospitality programs and extra-curriculum groups and activities as soon as possible.

Zvi Zamaret, a member of the Shenhar Committee which examined religious education in secular state schools, said: "The situation today is very serious and if things carry on like

this it will be the downfall of the State of Israel." He proposed a program in state schools to be called Sheli - an acronym for the Hebrew words for Integrating Jewish Studies.

Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun called on the religious public "to abandon the power struggle... to realize the 'miracle' of the unity of the People of Israel."

Elhanan Glat, the director general of Boei Akiva yeshivas, said all the yeshivas would stand behind the subject of bringing religious and secular communities closer.

Rabbi Menachem Froman suggested "match-making" between pairs of religious and secular schools including joint teachers' meetings, activities and studies.

people or gossip, and will go straight to the truth, I will be the first to praise it. I was the first to call for it." Netanyahu said. Last night, Labor's reaction team called Netanyahu's comments an attempt to pressure the investigators.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday that so far, the police have found no evidence to back up the Channel 1 report. His statement, made to the Knesset Law Committee prompted an angry response from Dedi Zucker (Meretz), who wanted to know how Kahalani knew this. If the minister is asking questions of the police, Zucker charged, that constitutes political interference in the investigation.

Kahalani indignantly denied this, saying he had not and will not interfere with the police's work. Kahalani also said he was not comfortable with the idea of an Israeli prime minister being questioned by the police.

"[We] should examine whether there aren't other tools to use in conducting the preliminary inquiry, before there is evidence, because there is not yet any evidence," he said.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert confirmed last night he is likely to face police questioning. "I do not believe there was any deal, and I was certainly not part of any negotiations," he said. "I can understand the prime minister's desire to order a police investigation but if there is no corroboration of what has been said on radio and television, why is an investigation necessary? Does this mean any time there's something on the news we have to start a police investigation?"

David Rudge and David Harris contributed to this report.

## Bulgarian Socialists receive mandate to govern

SOFIA (AP) - President Petar Stoyanov gave the ruling Socialists a mandate to form a new government yesterday, prompting opposition leaders to say their foes now bore full responsibility for leading Bulgaria out of crisis.

The leaders of Bulgaria's three major trade unions made good on their pledge to organize a general strike if the Socialists were given a chance to govern. The unions announced that workers would stay away from their jobs across the nation beginning today.

The Socialists are blamed for rampant inflation, a plunge in living standards and failure to institute economic reform. Their government resigned last month, spurring a political stalemate intensified by 21 days of street protests demanding early elections.

The constitution obliged President Petar Stoyanov to offer the helm of government to the Socialists because they are the largest party in parliament. Stoyanov asked the party, the former Communists, to turn down the offer to help clear the way for urgent reforms and new elections.

But Nikolai Dobrev, now premier-designate, made clear yesterday that he would go ahead and form a government, promising it would be broad-based.

"I have no intention of serving strictly party interests," Dobrev said. "I'll work for the people and

my country."

Mindful of the opposition's threats of street protests and strikes, Dobrev warned that "confrontation at this very moment is deadly for the country."

Emerging from the talks between Stoyanov and all the groups represented in the national assembly, Yordan Sokolov, parliamentary leader of the main opposition Union of Democratic Forces, said the onus for easing the crisis now lay with the Socialists.

"It's their move now," Sokolov said. "May they realize the huge responsibility that they take if they decide to use their mandate."

The Union's leader, Ivan Kostov, said his party was ready to end its 2 1/2-week boycott of parliament in order to participate in adopting emergency economic measures and forge a compromise. The BTA state news agency reported. But he confirmed the Union would press for elections.

"If there is the will and consensus, parliament can endorse in a short term the necessary laws and early elections be called," Kostov said.

Stoyanov, who took office last Wednesday, had warned Monday that his proposal for compromise marked the last chance to overcome Bulgaria's deep crisis.

Stoyanov had proposed Monday that the Socialists and all other parties in turn refuse to form the

new government. He would then be able to form a caretaker "government of consensus and change," they all could support, and elections could be called, probably for May.

Stoyanov leaves on his first official visit to Brussels yesterday to signal a desire for closer ties with the European Union and NATO. Before leaving, Stoyanov is to meet British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

Stoyanov had proposed that in the next 10 days, Parliament adopt legislation establishing a currency board that would impose spending discipline; authorize a caretaker government to negotiate with international lending institutions for new loans; and adopt a program to rein in hyperinflation, guarantee a minimum living income until spring, and continue economic reform.

The economy is a mess. Inflation topped 310 percent last year, and the currency, the lev, has plunged to half its worth at the beginning of the month.

Yesterday, the lev dropped to a new low of more than 1,000 to the dollar.

Average monthly wages have fallen to the equivalent of \$15 and pensions average about \$15. There are not enough reserves in state coffers to cover the \$1.5 billion due on the foreign debt of \$10 billion this year.

## British plan to give Nazi footage as warning against Ireland violence

BELFAST (Reuters) - The British government said yesterday it may use film footage of anti-Jewish violence in Nazi Germany for a television advertisement warning against dangers of sectarianism in Northern Ireland.

"We are not making a country-to-country parallel but perhaps suggesting that there may be common areas of vicious behavior," said Andy Wood, director of information at Britain's Northern Ireland Office.

For almost 30 years the province has been torn by violence by rival gunmen seeking to unite it with Ireland or keep it British. In the middle of last year fresh clashes broke out when minority Roman Catholics, many of whom want a united Ireland, demonstrated against annual parades held by majority pro-British Protestants.

Since then a wave of sectarian arson has intensified. Churches, halls and other property used by the Catholic and Protestant communities have been set alight.

Now Britain is considering issuing the advertisement which would intersperse film of pre-1939 persecution of Jews with contemporary footage of troubled Northern Ireland.

Images of slogans being daubed on Jewish-owned

shops, blazing synagogues and book burnings would figure in the production, part of a two-year television advertising campaign aimed at undermining the extremists on both sides and winning backing for British security forces.

"The important difference is that under the Nazis it was state-sponsored and state organized whereas... (here) it is clear that burnings seem to be the work of people who hold their fellow citizens in deep contempt," Wood said.

Officials said government ministers would view any final version of the advertisement before deciding whether to screen it.

Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew said there had been "a sharp downturn" in the mood in Northern Ireland and there was now a valid comparison to be made between church burnings in the province and pre-war Germany.

"Some people will say 'Oh, that's shocking. Oh, it's a disaster. It's extremist. We haven't got as far as that yet.' Mayhew told BBC television.

"No, we haven't got as far as that. But I wonder how many people have in their mind the unspoken word, 'yet'."

## Major taunted over House defeat

LONDON (Reuters) - British Prime Minister John Major yesterday shrugged off a surprise defeat in parliament as a miscount and said it would not change his tactics ahead of a general election due by May.

But opposition Labor Party leader Tony Blair taunted Major, accusing him of being desperate to hold on to power.

"Why doesn't the prime minister call a halt to what is... a tired out government?" Blair told parliament.

"If they're so confident why doesn't the prime minister just for once stop the dithering, name the day and call an election," he added to cheers from members of his party.

The opposition took advantage of ministers being away at a cabinet brainstorming session at the prime minister's country residence to stage a late-night ambush in the House of Commons, the lower

chamber of parliament, over government education plans.

Labor claimed a knife-edge victory with 273 votes to the government's 272. If all MPs are in parliament, the ruling Conservatives and the combined opposition have 322 votes each.

Major, accusing Labor of "student union" politics, said he understood the government had not been defeated. Education Secretary Gillian Shephard said earlier there had been a miscount.

"We understand that last night the vote was in fact a tie, which under the procedures of the House (of Commons) would have meant that the government didn't lose it, because in those circumstances the Speaker... votes with the government," said Shephard.

Labor said it was not clear what had happened but, under parliamentary rules, the result must stand.

## Leader tells Albanians 'abandon violence'

TIRANA (AP) - President Sali Berisha, in his first public appearance in two weeks of unrest, yesterday urged Albanians to abandon violence for a "serious and fair" solution to disputes over falling get-rich-quick schemes.

Berisha spoke to supporters of his Democratic Party on Tirana's main Skanderbeg Square, but the crowd of about 3,000 people was much smaller than those Berisha usually draws.

That could be a sign of public discontent with the Democrats, who are publicly accused of profiting from the funds, thought to be pyramid schemes. The Democrats deny any profit.

were not, and would not be, involved in the question of the missing funds and "owe our allegiance only to humanity."

Lemberger said that the youth first heard of Amcha when the Swiss government gave the organization a SFR 500,000 (\$400,000) donation last October. He said similar humanitarian aid for the survivors had previously been received from Holland and the European Commission.

"I don't know the extent of the funds the pupils will be able to collect," Lemberger said, "but it is the gesture that is important."

While in Davos, Netanyahu will also meet Mubarak, their first meeting since last July. While that meeting was marked by a congenial atmosphere, acrimony soon broke out as Mubarak accused Netanyahu of reneging on a Hebron pullback, causing ties to deteriorate.

After visiting Davos, Netanyahu will go to Rome where he will meet with Italian officials and see Pope John Paul II.

## CLINTON

Continued from Page 1

based on the Madrid framework," said Netanyahu.

"What's important is to renew the negotiations with the knowledge that there is no agreement, because if there was agreement there would be no need for negotiations."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told visiting US Senator Daniel Inouye yesterday that Israel does not want US or other foreign troops on the Golan Heights to help monitor any peace agreement with Syria. "We know how to defend ourselves by ourselves with the generous aid which we have received for many years from the US," Mordechai told Inouye.

Meanwhile, Mordechai has been authorized to concentrate all negotiation efforts on the Syrian front. He has held a number of meetings with those who were involved in the talks under the previous government, including former ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

"We want to enter into negotiations and hold a real dialogue with the Syrians," Mordechai said after the meeting with Inouye.

Four Likud MKs yesterday said they would not rule out a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Two of them, Michael Kleiner (Gesher-Likud) and Ruby Rivlin, are considered hawkish in their policies and both voted against the Hebron agreement; the other two are Yehuda Lankri (Gesher-Likud) and Meir Sheenit. The MKs were responding to an initiative by Israel Radio which contacted them to ask their opinions. The reporter said other Likud MKs had expressed similar sentiments off the record.

"If reaching peace with Syria will strengthen us and strengthen our durability, reduce the international pressure on us and will allow [us] to reach security achievements and recognition of our security and national needs regarding the Land of Israel and Judea, Samaria and Gaza, then I have no doubt that this is important," said Kleiner.

Rivlin, an old-style Revisionist, does not rule out a withdrawal from part of the Golan Heights on the grounds that it is not part of the Land of Israel. He compares the situation to the Camp David Accords which resulted in withdrawal from Sinai as part of the peace agreement with Egypt.

Meanwhile, the Golan Residents Committee expressed surprise yesterday over comments by the four coalition members. "We are shocked and dismayed to hear such upsetting comments, which once again raise our apprehension, coming from members of the coalition," said leading residents committee activist Maria Van Meter.

"The GRC invites MKs Rivlin and Kleiner to come and see with their own eyes whether the Golan Heights is part of Israel or not. Both men will see the archaeological remains of Jewish life here from the time of the Bible, from the Second Temple era, the Mishna and Talmudic periods, and the early Zionist attempts to settle the Golan at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century."

GRC leaders met yesterday with Third Way party leader Internal Security Minister Avigdor Lieberman and others, who assured them that his position regarding the Golan was as firm as the basalt rock of the region.

## BAR-ON

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As such, Hasson, if questioned under caution, may exercise her right to silence or may cooperate fully with police, which may include disclosing her sources.

The slanderous allegations published against me constitute a criminal offense and obligate police to bring the offenders to trial," said Bar-On. He also asked police to "concentrate on investigating those who have committed offenses against me and not to waste time on an investigation based on gossip, nor to give in to Channel 1, which is trying to cover up for itself by hiding behind journalist/source confidentiality."

Shimon said on his way in to the police station that he is convinced that this is a serious inquiry and that he would cooperate fully. "I am doing my duty as a citizen," he said.

All three were questioned separately. National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor said that the probe was being conducted "as it should be" but refused to go into further details.

Others who can be expected to give evidence to police this week include Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who has expressed his willingness to be questioned, the prime minister's director-general Avigdor Lieberman and others.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday expressed the hope that the police inquiry into the affair would be conducted speedily and would get straight to the truth.

"This is the police inquiry that I called for. If the investigation will be efficient, speedy, without prejudice, without politicization and no trend towards trying to get

## SWISS

Continued from Page 1

support for Holocaust survivors. Amcha director John Lemberger said yesterday. The news about the establishment of the fund was given wide coverage in the Swiss media, he said.

Despite sporadic incidences of antisemitism in Switzerland following the recent developments with regard to missing Jewish bank accounts, the pupils expressed their conviction that

people throughout Switzerland would support their humanitarian gesture. "We are firmly convinced," they said, "that the vast majority of Swiss feel an identification with the Holocaust victims and will express this with their generous support. These victims are mainly elderly people who must be helped [immediately]."

At a news conference in Bern, the high school pupils said they felt the youth of Switzerland were more objective about the issue than their parents' generation since they did not experience the war. They also noted that they

## HASSAN

Continued from Page 1

Ginsberg, is among those seeking to arrange such a meeting. In the past, meetings between Hassan and Israeli leaders were organized by the monarch's Jewish adviser, Andrei Azulai, and Morocco senior security official, Gen.

Abdelak Kediri.

Regarding other Moslem leaders, Netanyahu is expected to meet Indonesia's Foreign Minister Ali Abdullah Alatas during the premier's trip this weekend to Davos, Switzerland, where he will be attending the World Economic Forum. Yitzhak Rabin, visited Indonesia a few years ago and Israel has longstanding but quiet ties with the country.



# Maskhadov claims victory in Chechen poll

GROZNY (Reuters) - Aslan Maskhadov, who forced Russian troops out of Chechnya with a combination of guerrilla warfare and shrewd diplomacy, claimed a sweeping victory yesterday in its presidential election.

"I expected it," a clearly delighted Maskhadov told reporters at his farmhouse home outside the capital Grozny after early data on the polling indicated he would win over 50 percent and avoid the need for a second round.

The result will add weight to Chechen demands for independence. But Moscow still holds strong cards in its efforts to hang on to the tiny landlocked region.

The 45-year-old former Soviet artillery colonel, who led Chechnya's guerrilla army to a stunning victory in the two-year war, chided rebel hardliner Shamil Basayev, 32, who seemed set to finish a distant second, for running a dirty campaign.

But he promised to work with any of his former allies. "Basayev can come and be my comrade again," he said.

Maskhadov's victory may be some comfort to Moscow after the humiliation of military defeat. Basayev would have been a nightmare for the Kremlin, which wants

to try him for terrorism.

Russian leaders began to view the soft-spoken Maskhadov as a man open to compromise during peace talks last year.

But Maskhadov says he is no less of a secessionist than Basayev or acting president Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, who was expected to finish third in the election.

Maskhadov said he felt the Kremlin had turned against him but insisted he would press on with his efforts to turn de facto autonomy into full sovereignty, something Moscow rejects.

"We have had our independence from Russia since 1991 and all that now remains is for other countries, including Russia, to recognize that," he told a news conference.

Maskhadov said his first priority would be to give Chechnya's million or so people a chance to recover from the war, in which tens of thousands died and hundreds of thousands lost their homes. He promised to crack down on lawlessness.

Turnout in the election may exceed 70 percent and international observers said the vote was smooth.

"Despite our difficulties...we managed to hold truly universal, democratic elections. This should

convince the world that the Chechen people have, are, and will defend their independence will all the means at their disposal," Yandarbiyev told reporters as he acknowledged defeat.

But Moscow, worried for its own stability and concerned about other restless ethnic minorities, has a strong hand against Chechnya, which is surrounded by Russian territory on three sides and backs the Caucasus mountains.

Moscow has threatened to sever relations with any nation that recognizes Chechen sovereignty.

In Moscow, Yeltsin, who is recovering from pneumonia, called a meeting of his top-level Consultative Council to discuss the results of the poll yesterday. Yeltsin admits sending troops to Chechnya was one of his biggest mistakes.

It could be one that haunts him well into his second term.

People in Grozny, the devastated Chechen capital, voiced mixed emotions over the prospect of Maskhadov as leader.

"Now they (Russians) will have to recognize us, we're people too, like Portugal, Holland, we're not monkeys," said another. "With Maskhadov as president everything will be OK."



Aslan Maskhadov speaks to reporters yesterday after the first results in the Chechen elections were made public.

(Reuters)

## UN says plight of Rwandan refugees worsens

GENEVA (Reuters) - UN agencies expressed concern yesterday over 200,000 Rwandan refugees trapped in the heart of the jungle amid fighting between rebels and Zairean troops.

Many of them are malnourished and are wandering further from assistance as they seek safety from the combat in the Zairean hinterland, the agencies said.

A makeshift camp at Shabunda, in eastern Zaire, home to an estimated 40,000 refugees, now lies in the war zone, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

"UNHCR is very preoccupied with situation in eastern Zaire, particularly about the camp at Shabunda," UNHCR spokeswoman Christine Berthoin said in a news briefing.

"It is very difficult to bring aid to this camp because it is isolated and most of all located near the front-line," she added. "Shabunda is really in a war zone."

The refugees have trekked hundreds of km west through the bush after ethnic Tutsi rebels overran their camps in Zaire late in 1996. Another 600,000 Hutus opted to return home

to Rwanda.

There is no road to Shabunda and humanitarian aid must be transported across a river after being flown in on small planes, which have difficulty landing during the rainy season.

Refugees at Shabunda were moving in small groups toward Puzia, about 100 km to the northeast, according to UNHCR. "We fear the movement will accelerate," Berthoin said.

"They have stayed in Shabunda because despite everything we have been able to bring them aid and relief. But if they go further, we will have even less chance of reaching them."

Marie Henze, spokeswoman for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), said roughly 6,000 refugees were in Puzia, while another 11,000 came through on Saturday on their way further west.

"The population is extremely mobile and it is extremely difficult to bring them relief," Henze said of Puzia.

"There is no doctor in Puzia and the health situation is worse than in Tingi-Tingi (180 km south east of Zaire's eastern hub of Kisangani),"

she added. "The situation is extremely serious."

There are some 25-30 new cases of cholera each day in Tingi-Tingi, the largest camp which holds some 120,000 Rwandan refugees, according to UNICEF.

The cholera death toll stands at three but 10 children under the age of five are dying each day at a single nutritional centre, mainly of diarrhoea and malaria, Henze said.

"These are diseases very linked to malnutrition," she said.

The World Food Program has only been able to bring in 50 tons of aid a day to the region, roughly half the amount needed for the total of 200,000 refugees at Shabunda, Tingi-Tingi and Amlis, according to the Geneva-based UNHCR.

The Hutus fled Rwanda with their leaders in fear of reprisal for 1994's genocide of minority Tutsis and Hutu moderates, after which Tutsis swept to power.

Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, will begin a mission to Africa's Great Lakes region on February 6. Her first stop is in Kampala for talks with Zairean officials.

## Serbia opposition forms parallel gov't

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Serbia's opposition coalition formed a parallel government in a major provincial town yesterday, raising the stakes in a volatile dispute with the ruling Socialists over annulled elections.

The Zajedno (Together) coalition swore in an opposition town council majority in a street ceremony in Smederevska Palanka after police prevented them from entering the municipal building along with 230 supporters.

Inside, President Slobodan Milosevic's Socialist Party (SPS) convened its version of the new town council with a leftist majority which Zajedno says was obtained by fraud.

Smederevska Palanka, 80 km south of the capital Belgrade, was among 14 Serbian municipalities where opposition victories in local elections last November were nullified by the Socialists on grounds of unspecified "irregularities".

Zajedno has staged 10 straight weeks of street protests since, its cause boosted by factfinders from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe who verified that the opposition had legitimately won the vote.

But the Socialists have admitted defeat in only four towns while blocking change in the others with litigation or by staging more elections, which were boycotted by Zajedno. Police have also begun beating opposition activists.

Zajedno said its move in Smederevska Palanka was based on results of the November 17 elections in which it won 26 of 49 seats. A state-influenced court later ruled the Socialists had captured 25 seats and Zajedno 24.

Police cordoned off the town hall and said they were authorised to allow only 24 deputies to pass.

## Rebel shooting interrupts Peruvian police show of force

LIMA (AP) - Despite Japan's pleas for restraint, Peruvian police commandos marched to martial music outside the Japanese ambassador's residence and provoked gunfire from leftist rebels holding 72 hostages inside.

The commandos, wearing black berets, ducked and scattered during the shooting, which followed hours of police maneuvers outside the diplomatic compound.

Shortly before the incident, Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had appealed to Peru "not to go too far" and to think about how the training exercises might affect the hostages' mental state.

Hashimoto again urged restraint

in a telephone conversation yesterday with Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, who called to inform him of negotiation efforts.

"We understand the need to tighten security around the residence, but we ask that the Peruvian government exercise sufficient caution so as not to bring about an unexpected situation," the Japanese Foreign Ministry quoted Hashimoto as saying. It did not say how Fujimori responded.

Early yesterday, police again blasted marching music from speakers set up outside the residence. Tupac Amaru rebels responded by singing a revolutionary anthem through a loud-speaker from a window.

Police have stepped up maneuvers outside the compound in the past two weeks, prompting the rebels to accuse them of trying to provoke a confrontation to justify storming the compound.

The shooting was at least the sixth time rebels have fired shots. In the past they've said the shots were warnings to police to keep their distance.

The commandos taunted the rebels, repeatedly rolling troop carriers past the compound entrance and pointing machine guns at the building. Some officers shouted and made obscene hand gestures toward the residence before the shooting broke out, sending them scattering for cover.

## China rebukes US on human rights report, Hong Kong

BEIJING (AP) - China rebuked the United States yesterday for issuing annual reports critical of Beijing's human rights record, saying they interfere in China's internal affairs and are often untrue.

The US State Department's latest human rights report is expected tomorrow and will reportedly say that Beijing has silenced all critics of the government and ruling Communist Party.

The administration has criticized Beijing's human rights record in all its annual reports. At a twice-weekly briefing for reporters, Chinese Foreign

Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said China has found that the reports were "often inaccurate and even discriminatory in parts."

"We believe that the United States' human rights reports interfere in China's internal affairs to a very large degree," Shen said.

He denied that China has any political prisoners and said the United States "should talk with China about human rights and not be confrontational."

Chinese Premier Li Peng, in a

meeting yesterday with six US Congressmen - including Rep. Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican, and New York Democrat Gary Ackerman - also called for communication, saying contacts and dialogue are better than containment and confrontation, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

Li said differences between countries were natural since they have their own social systems, cultural backgrounds and levels of development.

## Gandhi's ashes taken on final pilgrimage

CUTTACK, India (Reuters) - To the cry "Long live Mahatma Gandhi", the great grandson of modern India's founding father yesterday took his ashes out of a bank vault on a final pilgrimage to the Ganges River.

Tushar Arun Gandhi emerged from the State Bank of India in the eastern city of Cuttack, carrying on his head a reddish wooden box containing what he said were his great grandfather's ashes.

About 1,000 onlookers sang songs and chanted as the chief minister of Orissa state, J.B. Patnaik, placed garlands around Tushar Arun Gandhi's neck and the box, which was placed on the back of an open truck with two police guards.

The vehicle drove three km through crowded streets, with Tushar Arun Gandhi walking behind, to Gourishankar Park where hundreds of people, including disciples of India's apostle of non-violence, awaited his remains.

"This is a great sight," said Annapurna Moharana, 70. "Thanks to Tushar Gandhi, Gandhi's ashes have been taken out of the locker. But how many Indians today believe in Gandhi?"

After a fast and much media attention, Tushar

Arun Gandhi won control in November of the box, which had lain in a vault in the bank since 1950. "No Hindu will ever like the ashes of his forefathers to be kept in a museum let alone a bank locker," he said in nearby Bhubaneswar city earlier yesterday. "Which is why I had to battle it out."

Gandhi was shot dead by a Hindu fanatic on January 30, 1948, five months after India, spurred by the apostle of non-violence, won independence from Britain. He was cremated in Delhi.

The box contains an urn which measures 45 cm by 45 cm by 50 cm and bears the inscription "It contains the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi."

But some state authorities have called the claims that the box contains Gandhi's ashes a hoax.

Yesterday evening, the sealed wooden box was to be placed on a podium in a special railway carriage, which would then leave on a 19-hour train ride through four states to the banks of the mighty Ganges, the Hindu religion's most sacred river.

The ashes were to be immersed in the Ganges at Allahabad city on January 30, the 49th anniversary of the assassination of the Mahatma.

## France is world's most visited country

MADRID (Reuters) - France was the most visited destination in the world in 1996 but the United States was the top earner from international tourism, the World Tourism Organization said yesterday.

According to preliminary results from a study, international tourism grew by 4.6 percent in terms of arrivals to 592 million and 7.6 percent in terms of earnings to \$423.1 billion, excluding air fares.

The fastest growing region in 1996 was the Middle East which rose by more than 10 percent in terms of arrivals to 15 million and 15 percent in terms of receipts to \$8.2 billion.

But the most visited continent remained Europe with 347 million arrivals and \$214.5 billion in receipts.

Among individual countries, France held on to the number one position with 61.5 million arrivals in 1996, but slipped to number three in terms of receipts, collecting some \$28.2 billion.

The United States clocked up \$64.4 billion in international tourism receipts, a 5.3 percent increase on 1995 and was the second most visited country in the world with 44.8 million arrivals.

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## A welcome appointment

THE appointment of Elyakim Rubinstein as the next attorney-general provides some consolation for the bitter developments of the past week.

When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presents the appointment for approval today at a specially convened cabinet meeting, he will begin the process of restoring the polish to a judicial system badly tarnished by the clumsy hands of meddling ministers.

Rubinstein has all the right qualities to fit the demands of the job: his experience, legal ability and personal integrity are recognized by all who have come in contact with him. His non-partisanship, as highlighted by his serving as cabinet secretary in the governments of both Yitzhak Shamir and Yitzhak Rabin brings a welcome breath of fresh air to an administration in which the question "is he one of us?" seems to have been an overriding factor in assessing a person's qualification for any appointment or the chances of success in any job. The resignation this week of the prime minister's bureau chief, David Agmon, after only three months is just the latest example of the difficulties the prime minister seems to have in picking the right candidate for senior jobs.

Indeed, any comparison between Rubinstein and Bar-On as candidates for the post of attorney-general, even without taking into account the as-yet-unproven revelations of Channel 1, is so overwhelmingly in Rubinstein's favor that one wonders how the government could even have considered Bar-On.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi — whose own role in the appointment of Bar-On is far from clear, and who at one time said Bar-On's candidacy was his suggestion, only to then backtrack

after Channel 1 aired its allegations — has rightly, even if belatedly come to realize that a candidate's political affiliation is not the overriding requisite for the job of attorney-general. Former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar's acceptance of Hanegbi's request to head a public committee to define the requirements demanded in the appointment of an attorney-general is, alongside the Rubinstein appointment, the only other piece of good news to emerge from the whole affair.

Unfortunately, it seems unlikely that the police investigation into the "Bar-On for Hebron" scandal will be concluded in the near future, contrary to Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz's optimistic declaration at the beginning of the week that it would be over in a few days. This is damaging both for the government and the Israel Broadcasting Authority — and by extension, Israeli journalism as a whole.

For as long as there are grounds to suspect government officials of cooking up a deal in which the country's would-be attorney-general promised Shas leader Aryeh Deri a sweet plea-bargain in return for Shas's support for the Hebron redeployment, this government cannot be trusted, regardless of whether the prime minister himself was aware of the work of his senior officials.

At the same time, Channel 1's refusal to present any hard evidence — on the grounds that it would compromise their sources — as to the truth of the allegations casts a serious shadow on the reliability of their information. Until firm evidence can be produced, the mere word of a reporter and her immediate superiors is not nearly enough to back up the most serious of charges they have leveled at the government.

## The acceptable secessionist

THE new-president elect of Chechnya, Aslan Maskhadov, is not a leader whose name will be known to many in the rest of the world. But the rest of the world hopefully will soon learn to be grateful that this is the leader chosen by this war-battered reluctant province of Russia in its first, and amazingly smooth, election since last year's cease-fire was reached.

Maskhadov, a 45-year-old former Soviet artillery colonel, not only won the first round of the election in a solid 70 percent turnout, but won it handsomely enough — with more than 50% — to wipe out a second round. Chechens are delighted that their aspirations for independence will live on with their new president. Moscow is happy because almost any other outcome would have been deemed disastrous. If Russians consider Chechens "a bad lot," then Maskhadov is by far the best of them.

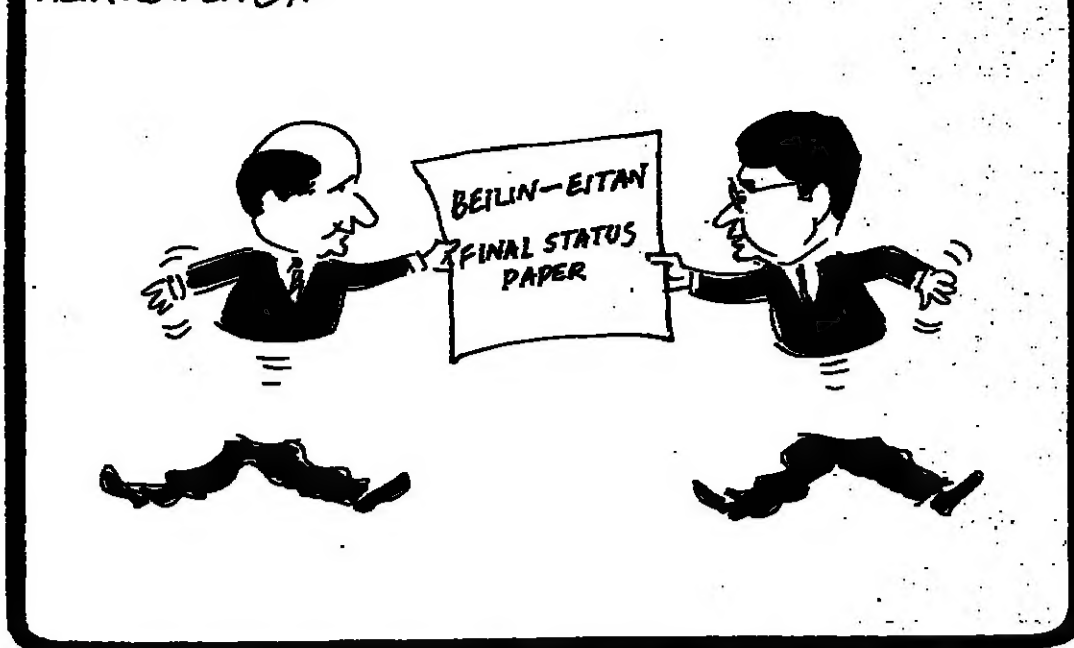
The new president's credentials among his people are impeccable. He is a warrior in the old mountain-rebel tradition, and is no appeaser of Russia but has won Moscow's respect as well as his people's for his ability to work with his country's old enemy. Not by compromise, but by a cunning mixture of war and jaw, he was mainly instrumental in getting the Russian army out of Chechnya, thus paving the way for the

election victory he now has won. It was a clever combination of talents that eluded the better known, more charismatic — but ultimately more limited — Dzhokhar Dudayev, the rebel leader who was killed in the final days of the war.

What his people have rewarded Maskhadov for most is his quite brilliant military campaign against the might of the Russian army and air force. Yet despite their humiliation at his hands, the Russian leaders still perceived in the soft-spoken strongman a way out of the bloody quagmire they had dug for themselves in Chechnya. During the peace talks, which he eventually signed last year, Maskhadov emerged as a man of realism and compromise. Maskhadov has declared himself to be no less a believer in Chechen independence than all his more radical political opponents, but there is no doubt that for Moscow he represents the acceptable face of secession.

Maskhadov struck the right chord by saying his first priority is not some mythical ideal, but helping Chechens recover from the ravages and destruction of the war. For that alone, and despite the huge difficulties ahead of him, he deserves the gratitude not just of his own people but of all of Russia whose sons were sent to die in one of Moscow's more pointless of useless wars.

MEIR RONEN @77



## This 'Grumble' is real

STEPHEN BRYEN

defense minister said it would lead to war between Greece and Turkey.

**For US security, keeping the Russian missiles out of Cyprus is more urgent than was tying up US foreign policy over Hebron**

Turkish Cypriots in the 18-month period before the Russian missiles arrive.

Unfortunately, the US response is only a tactic, not a path to resolving the differences that have divided the island. If anything, Russian insertion into the Cyprus crisis, and other Russian arms sales in the works to Greece, may not only help to freeze any prospect for a peaceful solution, but will escalate the strains between Greece and Turkey.

It is this circumstance that can cause the most harm to NATO. It would appear the Russians may have found a way to stop NATO's enlargement, by demonstrating its inability to act decisively even among its own core members.

IN THIS context, the US needs to focus much more on the Cyprus situation. In the framework of US security, keeping the Russian missiles out of Cyprus is more urgent than was tying up almost the entire US foreign policy establish-

ment over a deal in Hebron.

The US has leverage. There are effective ways to convince the Russians to drop the deal.

To begin with, the deal violates UN resolutions which urged cuts in military spending on Cyprus. While the Russians may not care to follow UN guidance, Russia needs finance and support from the West, and Boris Yeltsin's shaky government would be well advised to find an acceptable accommodation with Washington.

The US has the ability to make the game very costly. For example, an important Russian revenue center is its commercial space launch capability. A US freeze on that would hurt the Russians severely.

The Greek government also needs to hear clearly and convincingly from Washington. The situation has, for too long, been left to low-level discussions between the countries. The US needs to explain its policy and its need for a stable situation in Europe, and Greece needs to live up to its responsibilities as a NATO member.

Even more importantly, the situation on the ground in Cyprus needs a better-defined US policy. For too long the US has been dealing with symptoms rather than causes. If it wants to see an improved relationship between the two communities that live on Cyprus, it needs a program that can help resolve their social, economic and political differences.

Especially important is raising the standard of living and improving the economy on the Turkish Cypriot side, and creating a series of confidence-building measures that can provide a foundation for long-term peace and reconciliation. New Secretary of State Madeleine Albright needs to make Cyprus one of her top priorities.

The writer, a senior defense official during the Reagan administration, was staff director of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

## Long overdue

KENNETH LASSON

Yasser Arafat's announcement that Israel will release Palestinian prisoners as part of the Hebron agreement contrasts sharply with the recent statement by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi that every effort must be made to bring Jonathan Pollard to the Holy Land so he can serve out the rest of his sentence here.

Such suggestions demonstrate the weakness of the government's resolve (the emptiness of its promises?) to seek Pollard's redemption.

Can Israel seriously believe that a life term in one of its own prisons will do anything more than perpetuate an injustice in which it was demonstrably complicit?

It would mock the meaning of express national policy, namely that "Israel will use all means at its disposal to bring home the Prisoners of War and Missing in Action and all those who worked for the security of the state, and will insist on this point during negotiations with all relevant parties." (Guidelines of the Government, 6/16/96).

The emphasized clause refers specifically to Pollard, the Israeli citizen whose "immediate release," said Benjamin Netanyahu last May, "... between close friends and strong allies is the only thing to do... it is long overdue."

Similar assurances were given to Pollard supporters in meetings with religious and political leaders now part of the coalition government. But the gap between word and deed has been woeful.

No prime minister, for example, has ever openly sought to link Pollard's release with any of the numerous concessions (all strongly encouraged by the US) Israel has made during the peace process. No foreign minister, ambassador or MK has straight-

**Pollard must go home to Israel as a free man**

forwardly enlisted the support of friends on Capitol Hill for this cause. No Israeli leader has forthrightly exercised public leverage on Pollard's behalf, despite knowing full well that everything said or done in private has had little effect.

The US, on the other hand, has had no compunction about openly pressuring Israel to release convicted terrorists as a conciliatory gesture to the Palestinians, or demanding that its strongest ally in the Middle East trade land for peace.

THE Clinton administration's policy toward Pollard has been dictated largely by members of its intelligence community, before whom the president appears to cower.

Their righteous indignation at having been betrayed seemingly masks their inability to draw a distinction between Pollard's sins and those of more recently convicted mercenaries in their midst, between the misguided passing of confidential information to a friendly nation perceived at risk and flagrant treason. It calls into question both their sense of moral balance and the quality of their moral outrage.

Moreover, the architects of Pollard's life sentence have continually used it to question Israel's reliability as an ally.

Besides, smacking of anti-Semitism, such posturing reinforces the seemingly ageless paranoia of the American Jewish "leadership," which has been content to take repeated denials of justice for Pollard in its politically correct and docile stride.

The undisputed facts of Pollard's tragic plight need not be rehearsed, any more than the barely deniable declaration that his blatantly disproportionate life sentence — not only the harshest possible ever meted out for a similar offense, but the longest served to date — is (as a dissenting appellate judge called it) "a complete and gross miscarriage of justice."

Even if it were not, in Pollard's case justice has already been amply served. "Now," as Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel wrote recently, "is the time for human compassion."

Now, to put it another way, is the time for Israel to show its strength of character, to shoulder its responsibility, to demonstrate once and for all that it need not only respect the biddings of a benefactor; it must make the principled demands of a partner as well.

That means insisting that Jonathan Pollard go home to Israel — from, not to, captivity.

The writer is a professor of law at the University of Baltimore.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NOT SETTLERS

Sir, — Referring to Jewish citizens of certain areas of Eretz Yisrael as settlers constitutes a disservice to our state and people. The term raises images of new arrivals, transplants from other lands settling on new soil. That many non-Jews the world over view our presence in the land in that light is not

surprising, given the prevalent ignorance over our ancient and continuing links through culture, language, prayer and genealogy. The Arab Palestinians too are linked to the land. For the sake of peace, we cut a limb from ourselves, by ceding Hebron. The world must know that it is our limb

that we sacrifice and that we feel the pain. The few Jews who live there are not settlers, but have the same rights to residence as did our Patriarchs who are buried there. *The Jerusalem Post*, at least, should cease to refer to them as settlers.

M.L. GELMAN

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

### THE POLITICAL RIGHT

Sir, — The existential, as opposed to the local, implications of the Hebron agreement have been rightly emphasized in the media. It has clearly been shown to all that the Likud, as the secular branch of the Messianic movement, is now devoid of an ideology. The religious branch (Habad, the National Religious Party and the like) is left waiting as it has always done, and no doubt always will, for the Messiah.

And so, in 1997, the final and conclusive demonstration that the Zionist logic when so brilliantly succeeded in re-establishing

Jewish sovereignty in this land, is in fact the political, statist, secular logic of Herzl, Weizmann, Ben-Gurion and Begin (he returned the Sinai and started the process of compromise with the Palestinians) and not the halachic visionary dreams of the absolutists, both religious and non-religious.

The future of Israel is clearly now the destiny of all those forces which choose the possible over the impractical, the attainable over the fantasy. Now is the time finally to cement the modern character of Israel as a secular, liberal democratic state with a

universally acclaimed constitution, and consign nightmares of a theocracy with fascist lap-dogs to the trash can. The struggle for the identity of Israeli society must now be joined in earnest, and it must end as a true Zionist expression of all Jews in a modern world. And most importantly, the secular conservative forces in Israel (the majority in my opinion) must set about redefining the political right so as to deny the defeatist left the entire inheritance of the current debacle.

DR. ANTHONY S. LUDER  
Rosh Pina.

### THE MOUNTAIN AQUIFER

Sir, — I was astonished to read in your editorial of January 15 that you feared the Palestinian Authority might behave in an irresponsible way with respect to the exploitation of the mountain aquifer.

Under Arab jurisdiction, that part of the aquifer, now pumped by the five Herodian wells, was carefully surveyed and plans were drawn up for appropriate pumping rates, designed to supply sufficient water for the expanding population, but with due regard to the input-output water balance.

However, since 1967, successive governments of Israel, instead of following the wise management

principles governing the exploitation of the West Bank part of the mountain aquifer, so carefully calculated by the previous Arab jurisdiction, have mined this part of the aquifer by gross overpumping. Such irresponsibility is in contravention of the principles of international law governing the behavior of the "belligerent occupier" of the West Bank.

Between 1979 and 1989, overpumping from this part of the mountain aquifer lowered the static water level by about 30 meters. Instead of trying to redress the water balance between recharge and well extraction, the Israeli

authorities have actually increased the rate of extraction since 1989, thus lowering the water table to even more alarming levels.

Article 40 of the Oslo 2 Accords is concerned with the sharing of water resources by Israelis and Palestinians during the interim period, but gives no power to the Palestinian authorities to prevent further overpumping by the Israeli authorities of that part of the mountain aquifer under the West Bank.

DAVID SCARPA  
Bethlehem University  
Bethlehem.

### PAVLOS ANDRONIKOS

tion) and there is a real fear that Turkey has its sights set on occupying the whole of the island if Greece and Turkey go to war, especially if Cyprus is also involved.

And to the Greeks, it seems obvious that Turkey wants to provoke a war. It clearly covets the Greek islands closest to its Aegean coastline, and has its eyes on Thracian, with its sizable Turkish minority.

A war with a Greece ill-prepared to test Turkey's military strength

**Of course an aggressor (Turkey) prefers its victim (Cyprus) to remain defenseless**

would, Turkey hopes, open the way to territorial gains on both these fronts, giving it the excuse it needs to occupy the whole of Cyprus.

Turkey has learned only too well from its 1974 invasion of Cyprus that so long as it can come up with a plausible pretext for military action, the US and Europe will not intervene, or not quickly enough to prevent territorial gains.

This is a lesson the Greeks have also learned. Understandably, they are looking jointly to their defense.

GREECE and Cyprus have committed themselves to spending huge sums they can ill afford on military hardware so as to have some chance of deterring a Turkish invasion. Since neither has any designs on Turkish territory, their strengthening of their defense capabilities has to be seen as just that.

Since any attack by Turkey on military installations in Cyprus would have to be interpreted by both Greece and the Greek Cypriots as tantamount to a declaration of war and a testing of their joint-defense pact, it is time for the US and Europe, Turkey's NATO allies, to tell it firmly that it can gain nothing from the provocative tactics that constitute its foreign policy toward Greece.

It is also time commentators stopped presenting the Cyprus problem as an "intractable" dispute between Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Turkey calls the shot; it is using the Turkish Cypriots as pawns in power games that have nothing to do with their security and well-being.

Even in the illegal state Turkey created by forcing thousands of Cypriots from their homes and villages, they are a marginalized minority, outnumbered by Turkish colonists and soldiers and controlled by decisions made in Turkey and realized by Denktash's puppet government. No wonder their numbers are decreasing as they emigrate from the mess Turkey created for them.

Like the Greek Cypriots, the great majority of Turkish Cypriots want a solution to the Cyprus problem so that a unified Cyprus can join the European Union. They don't want to be annexed by Turkey or swamped by "settlers."

But this isn't what Turkey wants, or it would accept demilitarization, withdraw its armed forces from the island, and allow the Turkish Cypriots to freely elect representatives to negotiate with the Greek Cypriots on a new constitution for Cyprus.

The writer heads the Modern Greek section of the Department of Classics and Archeology at Monash University, Victoria, Australia.

Handwritten signature: *PAVLOS ANDRONIKOS*



## PARENTING

## A time to correct

By RUTH MASON

When my four-and-a-half-year-old says something inaccurate and I correct him, he gets upset. For example, he'll say, "Let me teach you how to do it right," and he'll say, "No!" and get upset. How do I decide when to help him learn something and when to let him make his mistakes? I feel like I'm betraying him by letting him make mistakes and maybe having other kids laugh at him when he does it in their presence. I'm a teacher.

Moshe Bar-Ness, Waldorf kindergarten teacher, responds: With many questions like this, you can observe your child, as you did, and get the response you seek. He is providing the answer to your question.

Young children learn almost everything through imitation, for example, to speak their native language, to walk upright, to sing and also to count. Almost every early childhood educational problem can be looked at with this in mind.

Your child is acting in a natural, healthy, age-appropriate way. Children this age do not like to be corrected. What they like to do is to be active and busy, not to listen to and follow directions. That is more appropriate for older kids. Their activities can involve them either in their fantasy world or in our world of reality. Giving them directions or corrections, is an interference in their world.

There is no reason to teach a four-and-a-half-year-old to

count. In Waldorf education, children learn to count in first grade at the age of six or seven and they go on to do well in math and science. But even then, we teach counting in a rhythmic way, and involve the whole body with clapping, jumping and stamping to the numbers. It turns counting into something that's alive and fun for the kids to do.

Rudolf Steiner, on whose ideas Waldorf education is based, taught that until the ages of six or seven a child's internal vital energies go toward building his body and learning to use it well. Only after his teeth begin to fall out are these energies free to be used for more intellectual or abstract activities. Counting is an abstract activity. Asking a child to focus on such an activity at too early an age diverts his energies to a task for which they are not meant. You might notice that children who are required to engage in abstract thinking, too early may be pale, have cold hands and feet, or seem lazy or lacking in energy.

By the time children enter school, they usually want to know what is correct and are willing to listen. Give him time and he will too. And don't worry yourself unnecessarily about what other kids will say. Give him the opportunity to deal with it if there is a problem. From the way he's reacting, it sounds like you're trying to protect him from one potential problem by creating another real one.

Your child will learn to count when he's ready whether you correct him or not. So relax, take your cues from him and enjoy.

## Hillary Clinton: America's 'co-president' in her 2nd term

By PETER BAKER

On an unseasonably warm October day, Hillary Rodham Clinton took a break from the presidential campaign, put on shorts and went for a walk with a couple of old friends. Strolling through Georgetown she abruptly stopped and without explanation led her pals around to the back of a nearby building.

"I was right," she exclaimed. "This is my doctor's office. I only recognize it from the back."

When you're first lady you wind up entering many buildings from the rear and your view of the world is a little skewed. Backs of buildings look like fronts. Bad politics may look like good policy — or is it the other way around? But as she begins a second term after four turbulent years as the nation's most visible spouse, friends say Hillary Clinton now recognizes there is more than one side to a multi-faceted role she has struggled to master.

Now, associates say, she has a fuller understanding of the job, an appreciation of its nuances, contours and, yes, limitations. It doesn't always require signed bills to make a difference, she has discovered. The power of her voice, her ability to focus attention on a favorite issue, are enough to redefine the debate.

Whether this realization represents a natural maturation on the job or diminished expectations after a humbling first term, Hillary Clinton has by no means surrendered her position as a vital force in the White House. While not the "co-president" her critics feared, she remains

actively engaged in policy matters, as evidenced by her attendance at the recent day-long Cabinet retreat, and has laid down markers for second-term legislative goals in health care, adoption and the District of Columbia's financial crisis.

Still, her public comments in the months since her husband's reelection have provided an occasional window into her evolving vision of her role in public life. She will, by process of elimination, serve as virtually the only strong liberal voice left in an administration that's gone through a centrist makeover. Her aspirations for the next four years continue to be centered on children's and women's issues, according to her aides, and carried out along the lines of three first-term successes. And her relatively quiet work on "Gulf War Syndrome" illnesses promises to be a model for future, generally low-key advocacy on issues important to her, with welfare reform at the top of the list.

For all of the talk about Hillary Clinton as a pioneering, transitional figure for women, she is hardly the first presidential spouse to play a dominant role in her husband's administration, nor is it likely that hers has been the most significant. The involvement of first ladies, and the controversy that inevitably follows, can be traced nearly to the dawn of the Republic. Abigail Adams, the second woman to occupy the position, was consulted on virtually every presidential action — and was derisively dubbed "Mrs. President" as a result.

Nellie Taft crafted William Howard Taft's speeches, vetoed his



Hillary Clinton starts this new term after four years as difficult as any of her predecessors experienced.

personnel choices and attended his Cabinet meetings, even her husband called her "the real president." Edith Wilson essentially ran what was called a "petticoat government" for months while Woodrow Wilson was incapacitated by a stroke.

Hillary Clinton is "a variation on the same theme," said Sheila Tate. Tate who worked for Nancy Reagan, whose influence was so great that she was considered responsible, among other things, for firing White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan, said: "Any time a first lady

too visibly usurps or is given the latitude to involve herself too visibly in the work the American people assign to the president, they balk."

Nonetheless, Hillary Clinton starts this next term after four years as trying as any of her predecessors experienced. Persistent investigations into her finances and actions make her the first presidential spouse to enter a second term facing potential indictment. Personal tragedies, including family deaths, have compounded the moments of misery.

"It's been tough, really tough."

Rougher than any of us would have anticipated," said Lynn Cutler, a friend and former vice chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee.

As a result, perhaps, her distrust of the Washington establishment, and the news media in particular, is palpable. Six weeks of requests for an interview for this article yielded only a four-paragraph written statement outlining her second-term goals in the broadest of terms.

And consequently, Hillary Clinton's enigma remains in the dichotomy of her persona. She can be as engaging at public events as her gregarious husband. Friends describe a warm, generous and funny woman in private, one who takes her aides' children to theatrical productions and dances the Macarena with her buddies in a Little Rock hotel suite while waiting for Election Night returns. Her staff's devotion to her is so deep it borders on idolatry, to the point that one aide compares the response to the first lady's overseas trips to "the second coming of Christ."

But in the public mind, she is often seen as cold, guarded and supremely certain that hers is the right and only view. Friends insist that side of her is the defensive crouch of a woman who feels misunderstood.

"In our country, we expect so much from the woman who is married to the president, but we don't really know what it is we expect," the First Lady recently said. "I think the answer is to just be who you are and do what you can do and get through it — and wait for a first man to hold the position." (The Washington Post)

## Open-door policy to new Jews

The query arrived for Rabbi Harold Schulweis by e-mail. "I am an 86-year-old man and I want to become a Jew," announced the sender. "But I am worried about having to be circumcised."

Schulweis responded, in part: "Abraham was 90 when he was circumcised, so you have four more years to arrive at a decision."

Two months ago, Schulweis proposed in a sermon to his Valley Beth Shalom congregation that Jews actively seek converts among interested unaffiliated non-Jews.

His call, widely reported in the Jewish and secular press, triggered a rash of inquiries via the Internet and drew 450 people to his temple in Encino, California. They came in response to an advertised "Invitation to Seekers" to attend the first of four talks on "The Uniqueness of Judaism."

The invitation was addressed to "people of all faiths and backgrounds who are unchurched and seek wisdom, meaning and a community of warmth and welcome."

There were a fair number of his congregants in the audience and other Schulweis groupies, who rarely miss a chance to listen to the eloquent and visionary rabbi.

His remarks reflected his belief that in explaining the meaning of Judaism to outsiders, Jews come to understand and deepen their own faith.

"This is not an academic exercise," Schulweis told his listeners. "In talking to you, I am talking to myself as well."

In the same vein, Schulweis spoke equally to born Jews as to born Christians when he denounced "the pernicious myth

## A California rabbi has been inundated with inquiries from Gentiles after suggesting Jews actively seek converts, Tom Tugend reports from LA

that Judaism is inhospitable to non-Jews. Judaism is not a private club of those born to Jewish mothers."

Jews who look askance at converts, he said, display "a shameful bias based on ignorance of Jewish theology.... The Bible and the Talmud repeatedly exhort us to accept the stranger with love and respect."

Schulweis frequently emphasized the non-exclusivity of the Jewish "club."

"Judaism has no monopoly on God," he said. "You don't have to be Jewish to be loved by God.... Adam was not a Jew, Adam was Everyman."

In a sense, Schulweis was implicitly responding to Orthodox and some fellow Conservative rabbis, who have criticized his conversionary outreach. He put his basic motivation in everyday terms. "When you see a great play or read a great book, you want to tell your friends about it. I feel the same excitement about the grandeur of Judaism."

The hesitation of many would-be converts that they will be rejected by born Jews was confirmed by conversations with a number of non-Jews before and after the rabbi's talk.

"I always perceived Jews as a closed group," said Kathy Burns, a

law-enforcement officer in Saugus. "I was raised as a Catholic, then became a born-again Christian," she said. "I have a lot of unresolved questions about religion and I am encouraged that Judaism asks questions."

Barbara Mack, also raised as a Catholic, agreed that she was always told that Jews didn't accept outsiders. "It's a good feeling to be welcomed," she said after listening to Schulweis. "Judaism seems to be much more open-minded than I thought."

Robin Carlson grew up in "a sheltered religion," as a Mormon in a small town without Jews, but developed an interest in other religions. She said she liked Schulweis's emphasis on individual responsibility but felt he hadn't "covered a whole lot" and promised to be back for the remaining talks.

In planning the four-lecture series, Valley Beth Shalom had done its homework. Each attendant was supplied with an extensive reading list on Judaism, as well as a listing of some 17 Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis ready to respond to personal questions.



Schulweis: I am not trying to win converts to Conservative Judaism only. If they connect with Habad, that's great.

"I am not trying to win converts to Conservative Judaism only," said Schulweis. "If they connect with Habad, that's great."

Pointing to the large number of electronic messages he had received about conversion, Schulweis said he was bemused by the perceptions of some of his Internet interlocutors.

"They frequently ask why the Jews didn't accept Jesus, and many seem to have the notion that first came Jesus, and then came the Jews and rejected him," Schulweis noted.

To reach out further, Valley Beth Shalom has opened a web site at [www.VBS.org](http://www.VBS.org).

## GRAPEVINE

## A civil servant par excellence

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Though on opposite sides of the political fence, two former prime ministers who worked with attorney-general designate Elyakim Rubinstein were united in singing his praises as the quintessential "civil servant." In an Israel Radio interview Shimon Peres lauded his phenomenal memory and Yitzhak Shamir his sense of humor. Shamir recalled that two of the people who particularly appreciated Rubinstein's talent for telling side-splitting anecdotes were Ronald Reagan and George Shultz. Rubinstein's fluency in Arabic, he added, also helped to lighten the atmosphere in negotiations with the Jordanians.

WHATEVER THE results of the probe into the Channel 1 scoop on the alleged attorney-general deal between Shas MK Aryeh Deri and the Prime Minister's Office, the whole affair has catapulted Channel 1 reporter Ayala Haseen into star category. Whether she will be a falling star remains to be seen, but meanwhile she's the brightest light in the electronic media constellation, both as interviewer and interviewee, and is being seen and quoted on the opposition Channel 2 and competing radio stations. If nothing else, she has certainly done wonders for Channel 1's rating. She's also generated a brand-new party game of worst-case scenarios, with most

people working on the basis of what might happen if she's right. But if she's wrong, it will be even more interesting to see how much Deri, besmirched lawyer Roni Bar-On and other star players in this true-life-is-better-than-fiction melodrama will win in libel and character defamation suits.

JEWISH AGENCY chairman Avraham Burg enjoyed a virtual 42nd birthday party last week when he addressed two groups of Jewish leaders in Orange County, California. Burg, who undertook a strenuous fund-raising and Jewish identification tour across America last September, raising \$52 million, was curious whether he could have the same impact in a teleconference. Using sophisticated Bezeq technology, he spoke to the people in California, whom he was able to see, and they watched him "live" and responded. When they brought him a birthday cake, Burg, in a symbolic effort to blow out the candles, blew into the camera.

APPEARING WITH Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky at the opening of the Hadassah mid-winter conference, Burg confided, after Sharansky left, that when Sharansky had first come to Israel he had been his chauffeur. "Now he's a minister in the government of Israel, and I'm working in Siberia," he quipped.

WHILE ISRAELIS are watching

reruns of Alfred Hitchcock movies and teleproductions, Hollywood is into remakes, and at least six of the master's suspense thrillers are scheduled for updates. But Hitchcock fans can also anticipate something new, *No Bail for the Judge*, an A.H. unproduced script which has reportedly been purchased by Madonna's Maverick production company. The question now is whether the script contains a sufficiently meaty role to enable her to emulate the success she had with *Evita*.

THE RIGHT of Israeli expatriate citizens to vote in Israel's national elections is apparently as controversial a subject abroad as it is here.

Moshe and Tova Yamin had a phone-in program on the subject on their Reshet Gimmel station in Miami on the day of the Superbowl. Even though many of the Israelis living in Miami are keen sports fans, the lines to the station were jammed. Those who got through voiced opinions for and against. Several callers opined that they didn't have the right to make decisions affecting the lives of people actually residing in Israel; but one caller said that if Arabs with dual loyalties could decide on Israel's fate just because they were living in Israel, non-resident Israelis with dual loyalties should surely be allowed to do the same. It's an argument that won't go away.

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### Sunfrost shuts plant, fires 150 workers

Sunfrost, a subsidiary of Clal Industries, has closed its production factory in Ashdod and fired 150 workers in an attempt to reduce losses. The frozen food manufacturer has transferred its production to the Pri Ha'emek factory in Migdal Ha'emek. The decision to close the plant was reached after Clal management failed to find a strategic international partner. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

### Industrial production up 5% in November

Industrial production rose five percent in November, following a 4% increase through September and October and a total of 2%-3% from April to August last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday reported. Industrial exports (excluding diamonds and trade with the Palestinian Authority) were up 6%-7% in the November-December period. *David Harris*

## 'Privatization won't cause job losses'

By DAVID HARRIS

Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon has strongly rejected suggestions that there will be job losses as a result of the government's newly published privatization program. Speaking to *The Jerusalem Post*, Leon described suggestions of widespread redundancies as "complete nonsense."

His rebuttal followed comments by leading industrialists Stef

The ministry is already discussing the creation of professional skill-conversion courses and special educational funds to cope with the expected increase in unemployment, he added.

Leon also rejected Wertheimer's suggestion that the government, management and workers should meet to discuss the implications of privatization. "What would you rather do - privatize or talk?" asked Leon.

"Does that mean you won't talk

### PRIVATIZATION VICTIMS?

workforce in government sell-off plan for 1997

Company	employees
Afridar*	29
Arad and Dead Sea Region Development Co. Ltd.*	15
Bezeq*	12,125
Eilat Foreshore Development Co. Ltd.*	9
Israel Chemicals Ltd.†	67,000
Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Corp. Ltd.*	105
Israel School of Tourism*	21
Laromne Hotels International Ltd.†	210
National Oil Co. Ltd.*	26
Yozma Venture Capital Ltd.*	5
Zim Israel Navigation Co. Ltd.*	4,083
Total	83,628

\* Sources: Government Companies Authority 1995 annual report

† Company's own statistics as of 28/1/97

\* Dun & Bradstreet International: Israel's leading enterprises 1996

Wertheimer and Dan Propper, who both said it is inevitable there will be layoffs as a direct result of the sale of government assets.

"If anything, jobs will be created in some companies," said Leon, who is in charge of privatization alongside Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni. However, he refused to elaborate.

Various government ministers, led by Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Communications Minister Limor Livnat, have in recent months said any initial job losses will be offset by job creation as a result of increased competition in the private sector, particularly in the communications sector.

"I fear there will certainly be job losses in the short term," Labor and Social Affairs Ministry director-general Yigal Ben-Shalom said.

with the Histadrut about privatization," asked *The Jerusalem Post*.

"Of course we will," he replied. Leon also pointed out that the first companies to be privatized "do not employ that many people."

The companies to be sold in the first wave will be: Bezeq, the National Oil Co. Ltd., Yozma Venture Capital Ltd., Israel Chemicals Ltd., Zim Israel Navigation Co. Ltd., Afridar (Ashkelon real estate developer), Laromne Hotels International Ltd., the Israel School of Tourism, the Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Corp. Ltd., Eilat Foreshore Development Co. Ltd., and Arad and Dead Sea Region Development Co. Ltd.

So far no date has been set for the sales of these companies, but in some cases the process has already started, and in others will begin in the coming weeks.

## Central bank denies plan to abandon exchange rate system

Meridor: Treasury opposes changes in diagonal mechanism

By Jerusalem Post Staff

The Bank of Israel yesterday denied a *Yediot Aharanot* report which said it is considering abolishing the so-called diagonal mechanism, which defines the limits within which the central bank allows the markets to determine the shekel's value.

The diagonal is based on the difference between the government's inflation target and the forecast inflation levels among various major developed economies.

"The exchange-rate mechanism is not bound to change in the near future," said Bank of Israel spokesman Oshad Bar-Efrat, who conceded that various senior officials in the central bank want to see

an expansion of the shekel's trade limits, which are currently set at 7% above and below the diagonal.

"It's known that some senior managers in the bank would like to see a change to the diagonal," he said, but stressed that no such decision has been taken, "nor has it even been proposed."

A statement from the Treasury also said media reports of a proposal to abolish the band mechanism are unconfirmed.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Dan Meridor told reporters that the Treasury is opposed to any change in the current mechanism. "We have no intention of altering the diagonal band," he said. "The governor [of the Bank of Israel, Jacob Frenkel] knows my views on this."

The shekel yesterday shed another 0.39 percent of its value against the dollar, which rose to another historic high of NIS 3.3190.

However, the shekel's recent depreciation against the dollar is on a much narrower scale than other major currencies', most notably the Japanese yen, which yesterday broke through the psychological barrier of 120 to the dollar.

An excessively strong shekel hampers exporters, whose foreign-currency-denominated income loses value in local terms. The diagonal mechanism allows the shekel to float so long as the market does not lead it beyond the bands which envelope it.

When the markets seek to trade the shekel for prices which exceed

the diagonal's bands, the Bank of Israel intervenes in trading - buying shekels when the currency is too weak and selling when it is too strong - in order to bring the currency back into the diagonal's limits.

Bankers believe the central bank has so far spent \$750m. in its effort to weaken the shekel.

The shekel's relatively high demand in the markets stems from the central bank's tight monetary policy, which makes it lucrative to keep shekels in bank deposits.

Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper condemned any plan to abandon or alter the diagonal. Such a "dangerous" move would "cause an immediate and severe crisis in the economy," he warned.

## Nortel buys 20% stake in Telrad

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Northern Telecom yesterday acquired 20 percent of Telrad Telecommunications and Electronic Industries, a fully-owned subsidiary of Koor Industries, for \$45 million through Nortel Communications, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary.

Telrad will launch an initial public equity offering in the near future, most probably in the US, said Koor Industries president and CEO Benjamin Gaon. A date has not yet been set for the offering.

Telrad, which was founded in 1951, is the country's largest telecommunications equipment maker, with some 2,660 employees and a \$400 million annual turnover last year.

Nortel, which is headquartered in Toronto, is a world leader in the field of communications networks, employing about 68,000 people worldwide. The company had \$12.8 billion in revenues last year, a 20 percent increase from 1995.

Speaking at the official signing ceremony in Tel Aviv yesterday, Nortel president and CEO Jean Monty said Telrad's engineering and research capability were major factors in the company's decision to enter the deal.

Though he conceded that the Hebron agreement encouraged Nortel, Monty said the company had long intended to seal a long-term agreement with Telrad.

Nortel intends to inject additional capital into Telrad to increase its market share.

According to Monty, the telecommunications systems market is estimated at about \$200 billion globally and is growing at a rate of about 10%-12% a year. "We want to globalize and expand markets," he said.

The agreement covers five major fields, said Telrad president Bezael Levin, who added he expects the deal to generate additional access to new products and technologies, increase its basket of products, help penetrate new markets, enhance research capability and expand sales to Nortel, which last year totaled \$120m.

Levin revealed the two companies are close to finalizing an agreement in Ethiopia.

"We see Nortel's investment as an integral component of Koor's overall corporate strategy to team up with leading multinational companies in each of our core businesses," said Gaon.

In recent years Koor has signed partnership agreements with General Dynamics, CPI, Henkel, Volvo and others.

The relationship between Telrad and Northern Telecom started in 1995, when the two companies signed a cooperation agreement to enable Telrad to market Northern Telecom products here and abroad. At about the same time, Northern Telecom signed an agreement giving it an option to purchase 20% of Telrad's common stock until the end of 1996.



Psychological barrier broken

A money dealer at the Tokyo Foreign Exchange breaks into laughter yesterday as the US dollar passes the psychologically important 121 barrier to 120.05 yen for the first time since February 1993. (AP)

## Soros, Comverse start \$30 million Israel fund

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Quantum Industrial Holdings Ltd., a fund managed by financier George Soros's Soros Fund Management LLC, and Comverse Technology yesterday announced the formation of a new private equity fund that will focus on investing in Israeli high tech companies.

Comverse, based in New York, designs, develops and manufactures computer and telecommunications systems for a variety of applications. Each partner has invested \$15 million in the ComSor Investment Fund BV, which is headquartered in the Netherlands.

Representatives said they decided

to start the fund because of the opportunities available in Israel's high-tech sector.

"Israel's technology industries have rapidly become among the most advanced in the world, producing a stream of new ventures that is extraordinary in terms of both its rate of growth and its quality," Comverse Technology president and chairman Kobi Alexander said in a statement.

ComSor will be represented in Israel by Comverse Investments Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Comverse Technology Inc.

Comverse holds 23% of software company DSL and has investments in Netvision, Smartlight and AVT.

## Shamrock seeks to buy Hapoalim's Koor stake

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Shamrock group will be very interested in buying Bank Hapoalim's shares in Koor Industries, according to Stanley Gold, president of Shamrock and chairman of Koor.

Earlier this week Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu instructed the Treasury, Justice Ministry and Bank of Israel's legal advisers to examine the implications of the proposal to compel Hapoalim to sell its holdings in Clal Israel and Koor Industries.

The recommendations, made

by Prime Minister's Office deputy director-general Moshe Leon, are to sell Hapoalim's holdings in the two large conglomerates before the bank is sold as part of the privatization process.

The legal advisers are expected to submit their recommendations within two weeks.

Leon's remarks contrast with the Brodet Committee report, which proposed forcing Hapoalim to dispose of either its Clal or Koor holdings by the end of 1998.

The Shamrock group already controls 22 percent of Koor Industries, which it acquired from Hevrat Haovdim in 1995. Hapoalim controls 26% of Koor's stock.

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# Kiwis survive to claim draw

AUCKLAND (Reuters) — All-rounder Nathan Astle hit an unbeaten century as New Zealand defied England yesterday with an unbroken last wicket partnership of 106 to save the first cricket Test in Auckland.

England, desperate for a Test victory after their disastrous tour of Zimbabwe, looked certain winners when they reduced New Zealand to 105 for eight at lunch, still needing 26 to make the tourists bat again.

But Astle and the tail-enders frustrated the English bowling attack throughout the final two sessions as the Canterbury all-rounder advanced to his third Test century. Simon Doull gave Astle initial support with an aggressive 26 before being yorked by Darren Gough.

Then veteran pace bowler Danny Morrison, holder of the world record for the highest number of ducks in Tests, became an unlikely batting hero as he survived for 165 minutes in partnership with Astle.

England captain Mike Atherton flung all five bowlers into the attack by turn, but failed to achieve a breakthrough. Morrison was solid in defense, while Astle punished anything loose as he swept to 102 not out with 13 boundaries.

The pair added an unbroken 106 for the

last wicket, smashing the previous record of 57 for New Zealand's 10th wicket against England, set by Frank Mooney and Jack Cowie at Leeds in 1949.

It was the third stand of more than 100 for the 10th wicket by New Zealand in Test cricket.

Earlier, fine spin bowling by left-armers Phil Tufnell, backed by seamer Alan Mullally and assisted by some rash batting shots, had put England in a commanding position.

New Zealand, resuming at 56 for three, began confidently but soon lost captain Lee Germon, needlessly run out by a direct throw by Nasser Hussain.

Justin Vaughan was then trapped lbw by Tufnell from a ball which spun viciously from the rough.

Adam Parore danced down the wicket to Tufnell and was easily stumped by Stewart for 33.

Mullally then chipped in by inducing Chris Cairns to chop a ball on to his stumps and had Dipak Patel leg before for nought last ball before lunch.

Tufnell finished with three for 53 from 40 overs, while Mullally claimed two for 47 and Darren Gough took two for 66.

The second Test starts in Wellington on

February 6, before which England plays a four-day match against New Zealand A beginning in Wanganui tomorrow.

**Australian leg-spin twins seal series victory**

Australia's new-found leg-spin twins, Shane Warne and Michael Bevan, grabbed 16 wickets between them to destroy a brittle West Indies line-up and hand their side a series-deciding victory in the fourth Test yesterday in Adelaide.

Australia won by an innings and 183 runs on the fourth day of the Test against a hapless West Indies to take an unbeatable 3-1 lead in the best-of-five match series and retain the Frank Worrell trophy they won in the Caribbean in 1995.

Australia captain Mark Taylor, who has struggled as an opening batsman this season, was delighted with the win.

"I couldn't be prouder," Taylor said.

He said the series victory proved the 1995 series win, the first by any team over West Indies in 15 years, was not a flash in the pan.

"We proved that this time around, that it wasn't lucky and that variety and conquering the four fast bowlers was the way to beat the West Indies," Taylor said among a jubilant crowd at Adelaide Oval.

Taylor said he was thrilled that his decision to elevate Bevan from a part-time bowler into a front-line spinner had succeeded so spectacularly.

Bevan, originally picked three years ago as a batsman, capped his transformation this season into a dangerous left-arm leg-spinner with 10 wickets in the match.

He took six for 82 with his bouncy wrist-spinners in the West Indies' second innings, fooling the tourists' top order with his pace and a deadly ball that spins the wrong way.

Bevan, who also scored an unusually circumspect 85 not out, was named man of the match for his career-best bowling performance and was understandably happy if reserved later on. "I'm on a bit of a high at the moment," he said.

But Bevan added his elevation to front-line spinner had not yet sunk in. "I'm still sort of a part-timer. I'm probably going to get a bit of stick for getting it (a 10-wicket bag) before my Test century," he said.

Warne, Australia's established leg-spinning wizard, showed he was still among the best in the world by taking three for 68 in the second innings and six wickets for the match.

## Nat'l hoopsters vs. Bosnia tonight

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Will he or won't he?

That's the question national basketball team coach Zvi Scherf has to ask about Bosnia's Nenad Markovitch — formerly of Hapoel Eilat and Hapoel Tel Aviv — regarding tonight's crucial matchup vs. Bosnia in Berlin. The injured swingman who left Eilat for Limoges a few weeks ago was hurt playing for the French side the other night, and reportedly isn't sure whether he will test his aching knee for the good of Bosnia or not. In the first encounter, Markovitch led Bosnia to victory here, scoring 40 points.

Israel will need to overcome a six-point loss in the first contest to assure itself of a berth in the European championships in June.

Several other Bosnian players are nursing injuries, which ought to help Israel's chances. Meanwhile, the Israeli side has a red-hot Adi Gordon in its ranks, who may even get a starting berth. In light of his recent European success, Gordon — who's proven clutch for the national squad before — may get the call again.

Israel's opening line-up will likely include Doron Sheffer, Nadav Henefeld, Motti Daniel and Ofer Fleischer. Gordon or captain Doron Jamchek could be the fifth man. Israel is again expected to be at a disadvantage underneath, but they've proven before they're capable of overcoming bigger teams with speed and shooting. Israel has a mathematical shot at advancing even if they lose tonight, providing Georgia beats Belarus tomorrow.

Last-minute efforts are being made to arrange a live TV broadcast of the game, which starts at 9 p.m. At press time, it was still unclear whether ITV or Channel 33 will televise the match.

## Green Bay hails champs

GREEN BAY (Reuters) — Tens of thousands of Green Bay Packers fans partied in the cold and snow Monday to mob the Super Bowl champs with a red-hot welcome home parade and rally.

"I feel like I'm in Times Square. It looks like New Year's eve," a local radio reporter shouted above the din as the motorcade carrying the team pushed its way through crowds choking the downtown section of this town of 96,000.

The final destination for jubilant Packers players, who beat the New England Patriots 35-21 at New Orleans' Louisiana Superdome on Sunday night for their first NFL championship in 29 years, was Lambeau Field.

About 60,000 fans paid \$5 each — some much higher to scalpers — to cram into the Packers' home stadium for a formal welcome ceremony. Those tickets were sold out within minutes of when they were offered last week.

A steady snow fell and temperatures hovered around 20 F (-7 C). Schools were closed. Some fans celebrated all night inside and then outside local bars, but police reported very few problems.

People crowded streets and climbed into trees along the motorcade route, forcing buses carrying the team to take a snail's pace. Confetti-making machines blew a paper blizzard from atop some buildings.

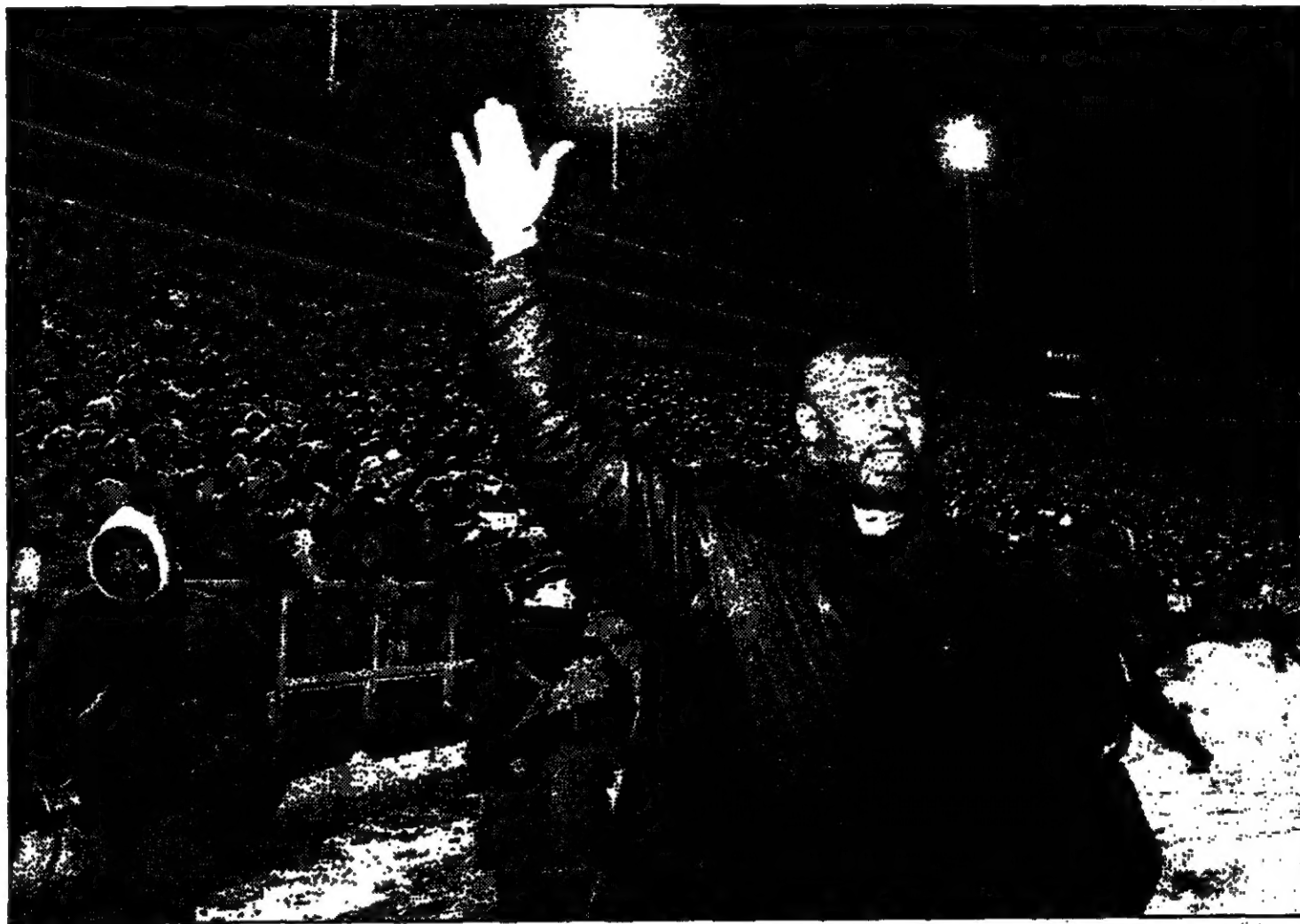
Nearly every car radio aerial in town seemed to have sprouted Packers flags — selling for \$20 each — celebrating the team's triumph.

"There's no better place than the state of Wisconsin," said a former resident who said he got up before dawn from his home in Iowa to drive to Green Bay.

Meanwhile, Super Bowl XXXI was the highest-rated telecast in Fox Network history and the fourth most-watched Super Bowl of all time, the network said.

The game received a 43.3 national household rating and a 65 share, with an estimated 128.9 million people watching all or part of the game.

The only larger audiences were Super Bowl No. 30 (Dallas-Pittsburgh) with 138.5m; No. 28 (Dallas-Buffalo) with 134.8m; and No. 27 (Dallas-Buffalo) with 133.4 million.



HEROES' WELCOME — Reggie White waves to the crowd as the Green Bay Packers celebrate in sub-freezing Lambeau Field on Monday after winning the Super Bowl.

## Graf back in stride

TOKYO (Reuters) — Steffi Graf returned to tennis yesterday after one of the worst weeks of her life and looked in great form as she won an exhibition doubles match with Pam Shriver.

Shrugging off fears that her game might suffer after her father's conviction on tax evasion charges, the world No. 1 and her American partner demolished Japanese opponents Kyoko Nagatsuka and Yuka Yoshida 8-0 in a match limited to two service games per player.

Graf, who is in Tokyo to play in the Pan Pacific women's open, showed few signs of lingering effects from a tie infection and heat exhaustion which contributed to her surprise fourth-round defeat last week in the Australian Open in Melbourne.

The German again dodged questions about her father's conviction, refusing out of Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium after the match.

A court in Mannheim, Germany, last Friday sentenced Peter Graf to three years and nine months in jail for evading tax amounting to DM 12 million (\$7.4m) on his daughter's earnings.

Graf, under investigation in the affair, is the top seed in the Pan Pacific and had a first-round bye in the singles of the \$926,250 event.

She will play Lisa Raymond of the US in the second round today.

## Canseco dealt again to A's

OAKLAND (Reuters) — The Oakland Athletics re-acquired Jose Canseco, the slugger outfielder and designated hitter from the Boston Red Sox, in exchange for pitcher John Waddell on Monday.

"I think I'm a much better player, a much better hitter actually," Canseco said when asked about how he has matured since his last stint in Oakland. "I think if (Mark) McGwire and I can stay healthy all year, if we can average 150 to 160 games, I think that we are going to win our division."

Canseco has been on the disabled list several times since being acquired from the Texas Rangers after the 1994 season.

Canseco batted .289 with 28 homers and 82 RBI last season. He demanded to be traded following the firing of manager Kevin Kennedy.

## Suns can't take the Heat

MIAMI (Reuters) — Alonzo Mourning scored 10 of his 20 points in the first quarter as the Miami Heat posted their most points of the season in their first home victory over the Phoenix Suns, 125-97 on Monday.

Tim Hardaway had 21 points and 10 assists for the Heat, who never trailed and shattered their previous season high of 111, set in double overtime at Sacramento on November 22nd.

"We shot 63 percent. Man, somewhere along the way we've got to bottle that," Miami coach Pat Riley said. "The best thing about the whole game was that we bounced back from a tough loss yesterday (at New York). It was a great win."

"That was just a good old-fashioned spanking," Suns coach Danny Ainge said. "They were good. We couldn't stop them in the post. Their 63 percent was just a direct result of us not playing tough defense."

Warriors 122, Grizzlies 97. Latrell Sprewell had 33 points and 11 assists and Joe Smith added 30 points to host Golden State in Monday's only other game.

## IRFU will take no action against players

DUBLIN (Reuters) — The Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) said yesterday it would take no action against three players who were the subject of complaints by France after the Five Nations game in Dublin on January 18.

The French Rugby Union Federation (FFR) sent the IRFU a videotape of incidents allegedly involving hooker Keith Wood, lock forward Paddy Johns and scrum-half Niall Hogan.

But the IRFU said in a statement it had studied the tape and found that no Irish player had committed offenses which warranted disciplinary action.

The FFR last week banned prop forward Franck Tournier from their next Five Nations game for stamping on Ireland hooker Allen Clarke in Dublin.

## SCOREBOARD

NHL — Monday's results: Chicago 2, NY Rangers 1; Ottawa 5, Tampa Bay 3; Colorado 5, Toronto 2; Dallas 7, Los Angeles 2; Anaheim 4, St. Louis 1; Vancouver 5, San Jose 2.

Joseph Holzman, Sports Editor

## CLASSIFIEDS

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#### General

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#### PERSONAL

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WHAT'S ON

PRIME TIME TV



CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Aldo Ceccato leads the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA in Schoenberg's most evocative, poetic and dramatic symphonic poem, *Felles und Melisande*, as well as in Brahms's third symphony. Tonight and tomorrow (8) at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem.

The Efron Choir under its conductor Maya Shavit performs tonight (8:30) at the Gallery of the Tel Aviv University within the very popular Colors and Tones in the Gallery chamber-concert series. The program includes songs from the Renaissance, Israeli songs and traditional Jewish songs. Also on the program is a recording of music performed by the Kfar Sava Recorder Ensemble.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Musical buffs can sit back and enjoy as the energetic cast of Daniel Schwartzman's *WOB* (that's *Way Off Broadway*) Musical Theater launches into *Fascinating Rhythms*, which features a 40-minute version of *Chicago* in the first half and a Gertrude Stein medley in the second. Director Schwartzman adapted the '20s story of a woman who really does get away with murder for the eighth member (so far) theater he founded just a year ago. Tonight at ZOIA House in Tel Aviv at 8:30 p.m.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\*\*\* *EVITA* - Who would have guessed it? Alan Parker's much-hyped screen rendition of the Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice rock opera is an exciting movie, a dramatically understated dramatic and musical work that defies the disjointed video-cassette format that the endless TV spots might have led one to expect. The rumors about Madonna are true, too: she seems to have been born to play the role of

Argentina's most famous first lady. According to Parker and Oliver Stone's fluid adaptation of the musical about the poor, illegitimate country girl turned populist folk hero, Eva Peron was ambitious, glamorous and extremely calculating, every bit the rags-to-rock-star politician. Madonna both sings beautifully here and embodies Evita's charismatic presence in a way that obviously can't be called modest - the role is too huge and virtuosic for that - but which is, somehow self-effacing. She becomes Evita, as few other pop icons could when faced with such a task. Also with Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Pryce. (English lyrics, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

★1/2 *THE FIRST WIVES CLUB* - A blackish comedy with Diane Keaton, Goldie Hawn and Bette Midler as friends who join together to avenge themselves on husbands who left them for younger women, this high-concept movie derives most of its appeal from the charm of its three stars. The film seems at first to want to be a stinging - and presumably cathartic - satire of the painful dilemma facing many real women. But director Hugh Wilson and screenwriter Robert Harlin, working from Olivia Goldsmith's novel, don't have anything near the sharp claws required to draw the metaphorical blood this project demands. They can't decide if it's dark humor they're after or an uplifting, therapeutic love-in about the need for empowerment in sisterhood. So the picture waffles around grotesquely, indulging in lots of broad physical humor and finally bottoming out in cuddly everyone-hugs-your-best-friend sentiment. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance suggested.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News flash  
8:31 News in Arabic  
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 On War and Peace  
8:30 How to Draw  
9:00 Social Sciences  
9:30 English  
9:45 Programs for the very young  
10:15 100 Years of Zion  
11:15 Geography  
11:40 Judaism  
12:05 Music  
12:35 Science and Technology  
13:00 In the Heat of the Night  
14:00 Surprise Train  
14:20 Kity Cat and Tommy  
14:35 Babar the Elephant  
15:00 Animals

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Motives from News  
15:50 Booty  
16:00 Who's Afraid of the Dark?  
16:25 Zap to Gimmel  
16:50 Zap to First  
16:59 A New Evening  
17:34 Zappy Culture  
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Matters  
18:55 Ramadan program  
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News flash  
18:31 Jukebox of Hits  
18:35 Joint broadcast with Radio 3  
20:00 News  
20:45 Conference Call  
20:50 News with Nesim Mishal  
21:15 Bus No. 300 - part 3  
22:10 No Man's Land  
22:50 Keeping Up Appearances  
23:30 News  
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs  
8:30 Spoozydoo  
7:00 The Five Mrs. Buchanans  
8:00 Dame Edna's Neighborhood Watch  
8:30 Angels Among Us  
9:25 Fine Things - based on the novel by Danielle Steele  
10:20 The President's Child - feature film  
10:30 Lunch Break  
12:30 Health Magazine  
13:00 Open Cards  
14:00 Echo Point  
14:30 The Ties - quiz show  
15:00 Top Cat  
15:30 Dave's World  
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful  
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshel  
17:30 Sport TV - for youth  
18:00 Seniors  
18:00 Family Album  
20:00 News  
20:30 Wheel of Fortune  
21:05 Fried Green Tomatoes (US) - a story of two pairs of women friends, one in the past, the other in the present. With Kathy Bates, Mary Stuart Masterson, Mary-Louise Parker and Jessica Tandy. (130 mins.)  
22:35 Synergy - Yaron London interview Yitzhak Mordechai and Shimon Peres  
00:05 Synergy - continued

ETV 2 (2)

15:30 All Together  
16:00 100 Years of Zionism  
16:30 Pillar of Fire  
17:30 Phenomenal World  
18:30 Welcome to France  
18:30 Family Relations  
19:00 On War and Peace  
19:30 Vis & Vis  
20:00 A New Evening, with Russian subtitles  
20:30 Basic Arabic  
21:00 Star Trek - The Next Generation  
21:45 Pop Songs  
22:00 Zombi  
22:30 1995 Montreal  
23:00 Evolutionary Trends

FAMILY CHANNEL

8:00 Oprah Winfrey  
8:30 One Life to Live  
9:45 The Young and the Restless  
10:00 Days of Our Lives  
11:20 Paris Negra  
12:10 Neighbors  
12:45 Dallas  
13:30 Pursuit of

HAIFA

8:00 Paris Trout (1981) - a personal story of a young man who shoots a 12-year-old black girl. With Dennis Hopper and Barbara Hershey. (100 mins.)  
2:25 On the Edge of the Shell  
19:30 Local broadcast  
20:50 Melrose Place  
21:40 Savannah  
22:30 Silk Stalkings  
23:20 Night Stand with Dick District  
00:30 ENG Newsroom  
1:20 Night of 60

JORDAN TV

(unconfirmed)  
13:00 Programs for Ramadan  
13:30 Cartoons  
14:30 Escape from Jupiter - science fiction  
15:00 Movie  
16:50 Programs for Ramadan  
17:30 The Muppet Show  
18:00 French programs  
18:30 News headlines  
18:35 Bakersfield PD  
20:00 Oriental Rugs  
20:30 Challenges  
21:10 NBA Basketball  
22:00 News in English  
22:25 Journey into Islam  
23:00 Cobra  
23:50 Mini-series  
1:15 Ramadan takes

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop  
14:30 The 700 Club  
15:00 Sandokan  
15:25 Stuntwoman - feature film  
15:55 Family Channel  
16:50 Larry King  
18:30 World News Tonight  
20:00 Coach  
20:25 Dave's World  
20:50 Newhart  
21:15 Ted - feature film  
23:00 CNN  
00:00 Quantum Shopping

CABLE

ITV 3 (3)

16:00 Cartoons  
16:30 Yasin and Baheya  
17:15 Discussion in Arabic  
18:00 Amores  
18:30 News in Arabic  
19:30 Documentary in Russian  
20:00 News  
20:45 Are You Being Served?  
21:15 Phil Collins  
22:15 Freddy Star  
22:45 50 Years of the Paris Lido (pt)

CHILDREN (5)

8:30 Cartoons  
9:00 Nils Holgersson  
9:30 The Center of Things (pt)  
9:45 Pink Panther Show  
10:05 The Center of Things  
10:30 The Center of Things  
10:55 The Center of Things  
11:05 Hengist with Mr. Cooper  
11:30 Little University  
12:00 Gull - Children's Olympics (pt)  
12:30 Hugo  
12:50 Surprise  
13:00 Penguin  
13:10 Avenger  
13:30 Binky Bill  
14:00 Strike the Lion  
14:30 Nils Holgersson  
15:00 The Center of Things  
15:15 Pink Panther Show  
15:30 The Center of Things  
15:50 Mirror, Mirror  
16:15 The Center of Things  
16:35 Welcome Freshmen  
17:05 Little University  
17:30 Gull - Children's Olympics (pt)  
18:00 Hugo  
18:30 Looney Tunes  
18:40 Tazmania  
19:00 Little Flying Bears  
19:30 Itai and Friends  
20:10 Rock's Modern  
20:25 Married with Children  
20:50 Roseanne  
21:15 Lois and Clark  
21:45 The Young and the Restless  
22:10 Paris Negra  
12:10 Neighbors  
12:45 Dallas  
13:30 Pursuit of

EUROSPORT

8:30 The Seina Scott Show  
7:00 The Ticket  
7:30 NBC Morning News  
8:00 The Ticket  
8:30 The Ticket  
9:00 The Ticket  
9:30 The Ticket  
10:00 The Ticket  
10:30 The Ticket  
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MOVIES

HAIFA

8:00 Paris Trout (1981) - a personal story of a young man who shoots a 12-year-old black girl. With Dennis Hopper and Barbara Hershey. (100 mins.)  
2:25 On the Edge of the Shell  
19:30 Local broadcast  
20:50 Melrose Place  
21:40 Savannah  
22:30 Silk Stalkings  
23:20 Night Stand with Dick District  
00:30 ENG Newsroom  
1:20 Night of 60

JERUSALEM

8:00 Paris Trout (1981) - a personal story of a young man who shoots a 12-year-old black girl. With Dennis Hopper and Barbara Hershey. (100 mins.)  
2:25 On the Edge of the Shell  
19:30 Local broadcast  
20:50 Melrose Place  
21:40 Savannah  
22:30 Silk Stalkings  
23:20 Night Stand with Dick District  
00:30 ENG Newsroom  
1:20 Night of 60

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Brief (5)  
4 Pastry cover (5)  
10 Juice fruit (7)  
11 Recuse (5)  
12 Stringed instrument (5)  
13 Put an end to (7)  
15 Roman emperor (4)  
17 Anxiety (5)  
19 Proverb (5)  
22 Brief message (4)  
25 Ties (7)  
27 Noisy assembly (5)  
30 Of the hip (7)  
31 List of competitors (5)  
32 Behind (5)

DOWN

2 Wading bird (5)  
3 Be sufficient for (3,2)  
6 Coarse cloth (7)  
7 African snake (5)  
8 Arab capital (5)  
14 Senses jug (4)  
16 Sicilian volcano (4)  
18 Cotton cloth (7)  
20 Interrogate a spy (7)  
21 Smudge (5)  
23 Compulent (5)  
24 Loose (5)  
26 Apple drink (5)  
28 Take a dip (5)



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Decline something worthless (6)  
4 The Case of the Unusual Sword (8)  
9 Investor receiving money from ship in nefarious trade (6)  
10 A single ship is a joke, in brief (8-5)  
11 Move king to safety in stronghold (6)  
12 Pawly in charge of a magnificent church (8)  
14 Thoughtfulness of maiden in state of downfall (10)  
18 Final result - cup trodden and smashed (3,7)  
22 Hot and stuffy, without any cover (8)  
23 Up-to-date method to lead the Navy (6)  
24 Hold back holiday - wet weather (8)  
25 Quiet film returned by a girl (6)  
26 With passion, read out scripture extremely loudly (8)  
27 Put ball into play, capturing point with deflection (6)  
DOWN  
1 Lying about improvement in health? (4-4)  
2 Some fare badly? That's terrible (8)  
3 Ringlets, looking artificial but absolutely genuine (8)  
5 Can look inside brownish-colored melon (10)  
6 Finish we hear beside this sea (6)  
7 A loose woman relative? (6)  
8 Day in the city - an African one (6)  
13 Put up with whisky-maker's inactivity (10)  
15 Attend demonstration to provide evidence (2,4)  
16 Better water found in America (6)  
17 Time long ago when one was in the theatre (5,3)  
19 Mountain guide uses unusual phrase (6)  
20 Avoided the fog, we're told (6)  
21 Badly managed, but I shall be in the race (3-3)

SOLUTIONS

YESTERDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Farmer, 4 Cane, 8 Antio, 9 Travel, 10 Pansy, 11 Sea, 12 Saw, 14 Dead, 15 Arch, 16 Rad, 21 Bore, 22 Recover, 23 Anxious, 24 Falst, 27 Linear, 28 Allego.

DOWN: 1 Freppo, 2 Retinue, 3 Scepter, 4 Chip, 5 Abuse, 6 Ballet, 7 Stays, 12 Watchful, 16 Involves, 17 Assault, 19 Dress, 20 Withers, 22 Vines, 24 Soot.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Brief (5)  
4 Pastry cover (5)  
10 Juice fruit (7)  
11 Recuse (5)  
12 Stringed instrument (5)  
13 Put an end to (7)  
15 Roman emperor (4)  
17 Anxiety (5)  
19 Proverb (5)  
22 Brief message (4)  
25 Ties (7)  
27 Noisy assembly (5)  
30 Of the hip (7)  
31 List of competitors (5)  
32 Behind (5)  
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6 Coarse cloth (7)  
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28 Take a dip (5)

General Assistance and Where To Go listings now appear on Page 9.



# Council okays Ben-Gurion 2000 plan

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The National Planning and Building Council (NPBC) yesterday approved the overall plans for Ben-Gurion 2000, the expanded Ben-Gurion Airport, slated to replace Israel's present international terminal and handle over double the present number of passengers.

According to Mordechai Debi, director of the Airports Authority, the NPBC approval was not the final bureaucratic step before the terminal can be built, but it was the major hurdle which had to be passed before the builders could get the green light. Debi said that within two months he expected the government to approve the overall plans, after which the NPBC would have to approve the specific plans for the terminal, slated to cost some \$850 million.

This schedule, Debi said, would mean that the new terminal could open by the summer of 2000. The present terminal, planned to accommodate some four

million passengers a year, is presently handling seven million a year, while the new terminal is to initially be equipped to deal with 12 million.

"We hope to begin work this summer and we should be completing the job within three years," Debi said.

The first part of the project, an Airline Administration spokesperson said, would be to divert the Ayalon riverbed, a job that could only be undertaken after the end of the rainy season. In December, the High Court of Justice rejected a petition claiming that the work on the Ayalon was illegal.

Work on the riverbed had been delayed by a temporary injunction imposed by the court, following the petition from residents of some 20 nearby communities, the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and the Israel Union for Environmental Defense. The coalition had tried to promote an alternative plan to develop Netavim in the Negev as an international airport.

While the previous environment minister, MK Yossi Sarid, had opposed the Ben-Gurion 2000 plans and promoted the Netavim alternative, present Environment Minister Rafael Eitan has favored Ben-Gurion 2000.

Sarid (Meretz) described the approval of the project as a "mistake which is likely to make the lives of tens of thousands of citizens miserable."

He said the noise from the expanded airport "will make their lives unbearable night and day." He criticized the decision to concentrate all the country's air traffic in one airport and said "only a backward country prefers business and tourism interests over environmental interests."

In a statement issued yesterday by the Interior Ministry, the NPBC stressed that it had ameliorated the plans. The Airports Authority is to deal with compensation claims, a task normally undertaken by local authorities, it said, and added that the plan as approved answers environmental concerns. A public commission, headed by the ministry, is to oversee

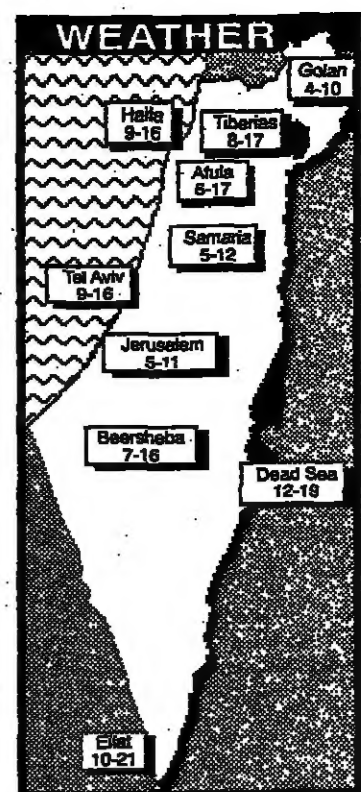
environmental factors. A judge is to determine the rights of communities to acoustic protection installations.

The NPBC recommended limiting night flights, and sanctions for excessive noise. It also called for a rail connection with the airport and urged the Airports Authority to compensate affected communities by undertaking public projects and erecting public buildings.

The NPBC said that it regarded Ben-Gurion 2000 as related to the development of a second international airport in the south, and called for plans for such an airport to be submitted within 18 months. All the members of the board except for the SPNI representative voted to approve the plans.

Rishon LeZion Mayor Meir Nitzan blasted the decision, saying, "It's too bad that nobody has the courage to cancel this plan. We'll continue to fight to insure that the residents' quality of life will not be damaged by this grandiose, outdated project."

Liat Collins contributed to this report.



## Panel formed to probe high wages in public sector

By EVELYN GORDON and DAVID RUDGE

The Knesset Finance Committee demanded yesterday that the Treasury and the Interior Ministry get back to it within a month with concrete proposals on how to prevent the payment of excess wages in the public sector.

The committee was discussing the report by Yossi Kuchik, head of the Treasury's wage division, on public-sector wages for 1995. This report found excess salary payments in some 62 percent of the bodies it examined. Most of the excess payments are to senior personnel.

At the end of the meeting, committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) suggested that Kuchik set up a committee consisting of himself, the director-general of the Interior Ministry and the director-general of the Government Companies Authority to come up with ways to enforce public-sector wage limits. This committee should report back to the Finance Committee within a month, Ravitz said.

Kuchik agreed to this proposal, noting that there are several possible ways to punish excess wage payments if a functioning enforcement mechanism is put in place. These include firing senior officials who approve excess wage payments, giving company controllers special powers to enforce

wage limits, creating special control centers in the various public bodies involved, requiring all wage agreements drawn up by the local authorities to be approved by the Treasury's wage division, filing disciplinary charges against violators or reducing funding to bodies that pay excess wages, he said.

If this three-person committee does not come up with answers, Ravitz added, the Finance Committee will be forced to begin work on four private member's bills to mandate maximum wages in the public sector.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also criticized bloated salaries of civil servants and reiterated his call to MKs and ministers to waive wage increases this year.

Netanyahu, who spoke to reporters during a visit to the Haifa area yesterday, said the MKs should be setting an example to the public in light of this year's budget cuts.

"It's not clear whether the Knesset's decision applies to ministers, but if it does then I demand that it be cancelled in my case and if it can't be, I have already said I would donate it to the JNF," Netanyahu said.

"There's no place for this rise, not this year, not now nor in the next six months. We should set an example. I will also try to ensure in six months time that this decision will not be implemented."

## Rabbinate demands only kosher food on flights from Israel

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Chief Rabbinate has sent a letter to the foreign airlines serving Israel asking that the airlines serve only kosher food on their flights from Israel.

"Recently, I have had many enquiries from Israel and abroad

about the kashrut of the food your airline serves on its flights from Ben Gurion Airport," said the letter sent by Rabbi Levi Bistritsky, head of the Chief Rabbinate's kashrut division, to virtually all the foreign airlines.

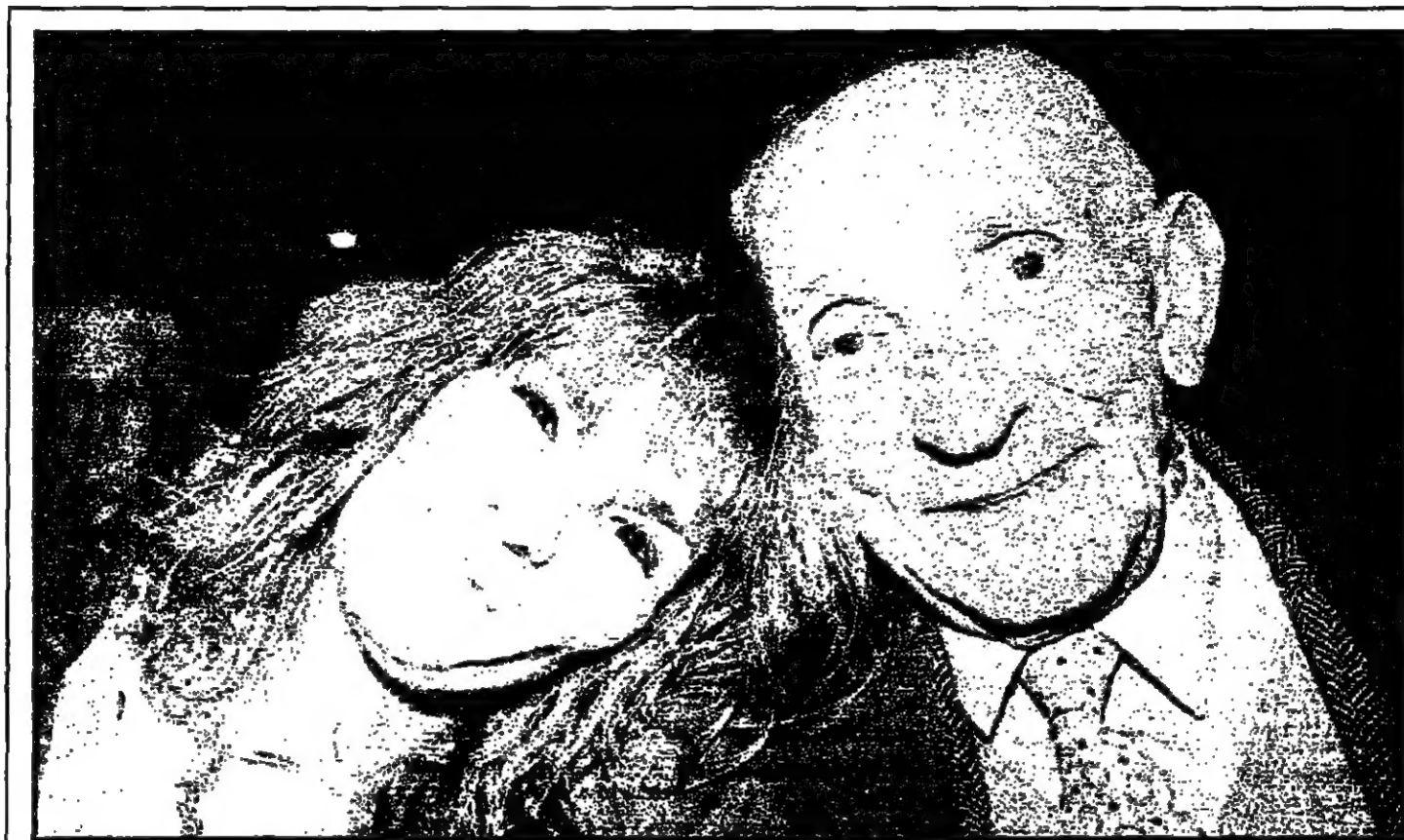
According to Bistritsky, passengers who want kosher food know

that they must order it, even on flights going to Israel. However, he said, they do not expect to have to order it on flights departing from "the Jewish State in the era of the year 2000."

If the airlines continue to serve non-kosher food, he said, they must indicate, in several lan-

guages, that the food is not kosher.

In reaction, Eli Messer, Israel manager for Austrian Airlines, said that every passenger can get any food he wants including kosher food and food suitable for Hindus. "We cannot force them to eat kosher food," Messer said.



Generations of giving

At a gathering of Soldiers Welfare Association volunteers yesterday, the oldest active volunteer, Avraham Kirschenbaum, 90, met up with the youngest, Rachel Sharhabani.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WEATHER
Amsterdam	-2	10	10	cloudy
Berlin	-1	11	10	cloudy
Buenos Aires	21	28	10	cloudy
Cairo	18	25	10	clear
Chicago	-1	10	10	clear
Copenhagen	-1	10	10	clear
Frankfurt	0	11	10	cloudy
Hamburg	-1	10	10	cloudy
Heidelberg	-1	10	10	cloudy
Hong Kong	15	25	10	clear
London	1	10	10	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	25	10	cloudy
Madrid	15	22	10	clear
Moscow	-1	10	10	cloudy
Munich	-1	10	10	cloudy
New York	0	11	10	cloudy
Paris	0	11	10	cloudy
Rome	1	11	10	cloudy
Stockholm	-1	10	10	cloudy
Toronto	-1	10	10	cloudy
Vienna	-1	10	10	cloudy
Zurich	-1	10	10	cloudy

### Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, the queen of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the seven of clubs.

In last night's weekly Loto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 8, 30, 32, 48 and 49 and the additional number was 21.

### Rubinstein condemns State Attorney's retrial requirements

MK and law professor Amnon Rubinstein yesterday called the decision by the State Attorney's Office not to offer a retrial to convicted murderer Amos Baranes "scandalous, completely unacceptable and a stain on the Israeli justice system."

The State Attorney's Office informed the Supreme Court president that there was no reason for a retrial for Baranes, convicted of murdering soldier Rabel Heller some 21 years ago and sentenced to life imprisonment.

The Supreme Court had rejected Baranes's appeal of his conviction but he has always insisted he is innocent. After serving 10 years he was pardoned and released but he has continued his fight for a complete acquittal.

About six months ago, Baranes asked Supreme Court President Justice Aharon Barak for a retrial and included in his request the opinions of senior pathologists and psychiatrists who said Heller was the victim of a serial killer responsible for the deaths of seven young women in the country, including Hadas Kedmi. (Jm)

## Sharansky salutes Sakharov, pushes for increase in trade

by ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

MOSCOW - In a soft Moscow snowfall, Nathan Sharansky stood silent yesterday beside the grave of the man who showed him that not even the most repressive regime can prevent a man from being true to himself.

"Andre Sakharov showed us there was another way," Sharansky said of the nuclear scientist who led the Russian human rights movement. "He developed the hydrogen bomb because he thought it would bring stability. When he saw that it didn't he invented a new

weapon - truth. It was much more powerful and no regime could stand against it."

Sharansky noted that he had organized press conferences for Sakharov and said the latter had helped the Jewish emigration movement.

The minister of trade's second

day in Moscow was devoted largely to meeting with Russian officials, including Economics Minister Yeghena Yassin and meetings with the press.

On Monday night he had appeared live on Russia's most popular TV interview program, but most television channels

ignored his presence and newspapers only gave him modest coverage.

Addressing a conclave of Russian and Israeli industrialists, Sharansky said that the trade potential between the countries had barely been exploited despite a dramatic increase in the last

three years. The large pool of Russian speakers in Israel, he said, provided a sound base for joint projects.

Yassin echoed this point at a press conference and noted Israel's widespread contacts in the West. "We in Russia can use Israel as a bridge for trade with the world," he said.

About the potential for joint projects, Deputy Prime Minister Fortov said Russian entrepreneurs would like to participate in projects like building the Tel Aviv subway and the Carmel tunnel.

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POST department

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